

Technical Information > Timber Species Database

> Keruing



Dipterocarpus spp, Dipterocarpus cornutus, Dipterocarpus costulatus, Dipterocarpus crinitus, Dipterocarpus sublamellatus, Dipterocarpus apterus, Dipterocarpus lowii, Dipterocarpus verrucosus, Dipterocarpus gracilis, Dipterocarpus acutangulus, Dipterocarpus grandiflorus, Dipterocarpus warburgii

Also known as: apitong, Sabah gurjun, yang, Malaysian keruing, Indonesian keruing, Sarawak keruing, kruen

Wood type Hardwood

There are some thirty species of *Dipterocarpus* occurring in South East Asia. For practical purposes it has been considered best to give the description and properties of the timbers together, since the exporting countries do not differentiate between the species but sell them collectively. This may result in variations in colour, weight etc. Some of the more important commercial species are given below.

Introduction

Dipterocarpus cornutus Dyer, *D. costulatus* V..SI, *D. crinitus* Dyer, *D. sublamellatus* Foxw. There may also be included, *D. apterus*, *D. lowii*, *D. verrucosus*, and others. These produce Malaysian keruing.

Dipterocarpus cornutus Dyer, and *D. gracilis* Bl. produce Indonesian keruing.

Dipterocarpus acutangulus Vesque, *D. apterus* Foxw., *D. caudiferus* Merr, *D. lowii* Hook f., and *D. verrucosus* Foxw ex V.SI. These produce Sarawak keruing.

Dipterocarpus acutangulus Vesque, *D. caudiferus*, *D. confertus* V.SI., *D. gracilis* Bl., *D. grandiflorus* Blanco, and *D. warburgii* Brandis. These produce Sabah keruing.

Many species appear on the [IUCN Red List](#) of Threatened Species and are classified as:

Environmental

- **CR** - Critically Endangered: at very high risk of extinction in the wild

- **EN** - Endangered: at high risk of extinction in the wild

Distribution	The trees of this genus occur gregariously throughout South East Asia, Burma, India, The Andamans, Sri Lanka, Thailand, South Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines.
The Tree	The trees are evergreen and generally large, depending on locality, reaching heights of 25m to 45m and a diameter of 0.75m to 1.5m with a straight, cylindrical bole often clear of branches to 21 m above a small buttressed base.
The Timber	The sapwood is greyish-brown and distinct, and usually 50mm to 75mm wide. The heartwood varies from light red to reddish-brown or brown, darkening on exposure. The grain is usually straight but may be shallowly interlocked, and the texture is moderately coarse or coarse, but even. The timber contains an oleo-resin which exudes in a number of pieces especially on the end grain. The various species vary in weight from 640 kg/m ³ to 960 kg/m ³ but an average for the group is about 740 kg/m ³ when dried.
Drying	The timbers of this group dry slowly, and it is difficult to achieve uniform drying particularly in thick stock or in quarter-sawn material. High temperatures aggravate the exudation of resin, and care is therefore needed in order to reduce this to a minimum and also to reduce the tendency for cupping to occur. There is high shrinkage during drying, and a corresponding high movement potential.
Strength	Keruing generally compares with teak in most strength categories, but it is a little stiffer, and about 40 per cent more resistant to shock loads
Working Qualities	Difficult - The variations that exist between the different species and within species in respect of resin content, type of grain and hardness, affect the general ease of working, dulling of cutters and finishing properties. The timbers vary from hard to very hard and horny in cutting across the grain, and whereas straight grained material is capable of clean, slightly fibrous finish in planing and moulding, quarter-sawn, or interlocked-grained material picks up during these operations unless cutting angles are reduced to 20°. The wood stains satisfactorily, but due to the resin, varnishing and polishing require a lot of care. It takes nails and screws reasonably well, but its gluing properties are variable.
Durability	Moderately durable
Treatability	Difficult
Moisture Movement	Medium
Density (mean, Kg/m³)	740 (Density can vary by 20% or more)
Texture	Medium
Availability	Regular

Price	Low
Chemical Properties	Liabile to residue exudation
Use(s)	Heavy structural use, Flooring
Colour(s)	Reddish brown (Also pinkish brown), Dark brown/black

- [Keruing \(Origin: Imported - Strength Grade: HS - Strength Class: D50\)](#)
- [Keruing \(Origin: Imported - Strength Grade: HS - Strength Class: Species/grade specific data\)](#)