

Technical Information > Timber Species Database

> Utile



Entandrophragma utile

Also known as: sipo (Ivory Coast), assié (Cameroon)

Wood type Hardwood

Listed in the [IUCN Red List](#) of Threatened Species as as **VU** – Vulnerable: at risk of extinction.

Environmental

Not listed in CITES. Believed available from well-managed sources. Check certification status with suppliers.

Distribution

Utile has a wide natural distribution in tropical Africa. It occurs in the Ivory Coast, in the Cameroons, and in Liberia, Gabon and Uganda. The tree grows chiefly in the moist, deciduous high forest.

The Tree

The tree may be up to 45m tall and 2m in diameter above the base. The bole is straight, cylindrical, and free of buttresses, and may be 21m to 24m long.

The Timber

The heartwood and sapwood are distinct; the heartwood is pale pink when freshly cut, darkening on exposure to reddish-brown. It closely resembles the related sapele, both in appearance and properties, but is more open in texture due to the larger pores, and generally lacks the cedar-like odour of sapele. The interlocked grain produces a broad ribbon-stripe, often wider and more irregular than that of sapele. It weighs about 660 kg/m³ when dried.

Drying

Utile dries moderately slowly with a distinct tendency for distortion in the form of twist to occur, and original shakes to extend. In general however, distortion is not severe.

Strength

Its strength properties are similar to those of American mahogany.

Working Qualities

Medium - Works rather well, but with a slight blunting effect on cutting edges A cutting angle of 15° will reduce the tendency for the interlocked grain to tear during planing and moulding. Takes stain and glue well, and polishes well after filling.

Durability

Moderately durable

Treatability	Extremely difficult
Moisture Movement	Medium
Density (mean, Kg/m³)	660 ()
Texture	Medium
Availability	Regular
Price	Medium
Use(s)	Exterior joinery, Interior joinery, Furniture
Colour(s)	Reddish brown