

The Colonial Woodsmyth

Common Name: Amboyna

Botanical Name: Pterocarpus indicus

Other Common Names: Narra, Amboyna, Angsana, Nara, Narra, Narravitail, New Guinea rosewood, Papua New Guinea rosewood, Rosewood, Sena, Solomons padauk, Yaya sa

Common Uses: Furniture , Cabinetmaking, Decorative veneer, Interior trim, Novelties, Fine furniture, Carvings, Musical instruments , Flooring, Turnery, Bedroom suites, Building materials, Chairs, Chests, Concealed parts (Furniture), Desks, Dining-room furniture, Domestic flooring, Dowell pins, Dowells, Drawer sides, Drum sticks, Factory flooring, Figured veneer, Floor lamps, Furniture components, Furniture squares or stock, Hatracks, Interior construction, Kitchen cabinets, Living-room suites, Millwork, Moldings, Office furniture, Organ pipes, Parquet flooring, Piano keys, Pianos , Radio, stereo, TV cabinets, Rustic furniture, Sounding boards, Stools, Sub-flooring, Tables , Trimming, Utility furniture, Veneer, Violin, Violin bows, Wainscotting, Wardrobes, Woodwork , Xylophones



Region: Oceania and S.E. Asia

Country: Burma, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Thailand

Distribution: This species is one of about 60 in the Pterocarpus genus, which is reported to consist of small to large trees distributed throughout the tropics. Pterocarpus indicus is reported to be indigenous to Malaysia, but is also found in the Philippines, Borneo, Burma, New Guinea, and the Malay Archipelago. It is also reported to be often planted as an ornamental and a shade tree in several regions, including India, along roadsides, and in gardens because of its flowers and handsome foliage.

Tree Data: The tree is reported to reach a height of up to 100 feet (30 m) or more, with a trunk diameter of 24 to 36 inches (60 to 90 cm). It develops boles that are often of rather poor form and high, wide-spreading buttresses.

Sapwood Color: The sapwood is whitish or straw-colored, and is clearly demarcated from the heartwood.

Heartwood Color: The color of the heartwood ranges from blood red, golden brown, light yellow, reddish brown to a distinct red. It darkens upon exposure.

Grain: The grain is typically interlocked, sometimes wavy. The wood is often marked with little twisted curls and knots which give a pronounced fine figure. Flat sawn surfaces are reported to have a flame figure, and quartersawn surfaces usually exhibit a ribbon figure.

Texture: The porosity of the wood gives it a moderately fine to a moderately coarse, and uneven texture.

Luster: The surface of the wood is somewhat lustrous.