

The Colonial Woodsmyth

Common Name: East Indian Rosewood

Botanical Name: Dalbergia latifolia



Other Common Names: Bombay blackwood, East Indian rosewood, Indian palisandre, Indian rosewood, Java palisandre, Malabar, Shisham, Sitsal, Sonokeling, Indonesian rosewood

Common Uses: Fine furniture, Cabinetmaking, Veneer, Turnery, Musical instruments, Decorative veneer, Specialty items, Furniture, Joinery, Bedroom suites, Bobbins, Chairs, Chests, Concealed parts (Furniture), Core Stock, Desks, Dining-room furniture, Dowell pins, Dowells, Drawer sides, Drum sticks, Excelsior, Figured veneer, Floor lamps, Furniture components, Furniture squares or stock, Hatracks, Kitchen cabinets, Living-room suites, Office furniture, Organ pipes, Piano keys, Pianos, Picker sticks, Plain veneer, Radio, stereo, TV cabinets, Rustic furniture, Shade rollers, Shuttles, Sounding boards, Spindles, Spools, Stencil & chisel blocks, Stools, Sucker rods, Tables, Umbrella handles, Utility furniture, Violin, Violin bows, Wardrobes, Xylophones



Region: Oceania and S.E. Asia

Country: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Vietnam

Comments The Indonesian rosewood variety of this species is commonly understood to be plantation grown.

Tree Data: Under the best growing conditions, the trees are reported to reach heights of about 100 feet (30 m). They produce straight clear trunks that are 35 to 50 feet (10 to 15 m) long, with average diameters of up to 30 inches (75 cm), but may occasionally reach 60 inches (150 cm).

Sapwood Color: The sharply defined sapwood is yellowish or pale yellowish-white, often with a purplish tinge.

Heartwood Color: The color ranges from rose to dark-brown with darker purple-black lines. The darker streaks impart an attractive figure to the timber.

Grain: The crossed or narrowly interlocked grain produces a ribbon figure on quarter-sawn surfaces. Combination of darker streaks of color and interlocked grain give the timber a very attractive appearance.

Texture: The texture is moderately coarse and uniform

Luster: Luster is reported to vary from dull to medium.