

The Colonial Woodsmyth

Common Name: Genuine Mahogany

Botanical Name: Swietenia macrophylla



Other Common Names: Acajou, Acajou Amerique, Aguano, Belize mahogany, Big leafed mahogany, Bigleaf mahogany, Caguano, Cao, Caoba, Caoba de Atlantico, Caobilla, Chiculte, Cobano, Gateado, Honduras mahogany, Mahogany, Mara, Mogno, Orura, Palo zopilote



Common Uses: Boat building, Cabinetmaking, Decorative veneer, Furniture, Interior trim, Musical instruments, Paneling, Pianos, Scientific instruments, Sculpture, Turnery, Bedroom suites, Building materials, Canoes, Chairs, Chests, Concealed parts (Furniture), Desks, Dining-room furniture, Dowell pins, Dowells, Drawer sides, Drum sticks, Figured veneer, Fine furniture, Floor lamps, Furniture components, Furniture squares or stock, Hatracks, Interior construction, Kitchen cabinets, Lifeboats, Living-room suites, Millwork,

Moldings, Office furniture, Organ pipes, Piano keys, Radio, stereo, TV cabinets, Rustic furniture, Shipbuilding, Sounding boards, Stools, T-Squares, Tables, Trimming, Utility furniture, Veneer, Violin, Violin bows, Wainscotting, Wardrobes, Woodwork, Xylophones

Region: Central America, Latin America

Country: Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Venezuela

Distribution: Perhaps the most valuable timber tree in the whole of tropical Latin America, Honduras mahogany has an extensive tropical distribution, from the north of the State of Veracruz to Yucatan in Mexico, and along the north Atlantic slope of Central America to Venezuela and Brazil. It also occurs in Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia at elevations of up to 4900 feet (1500 m), and on Cape Verde Islands. It is usually found in dry forests but it also occurs in moist and gallery forests. *S. macrophylla* is now widely planted throughout the whole of the tropics as a forest crop and currently provides almost all mahogany on the commercial market.

Tree Data: Honduras mahogany trees are reported to grow to heights of over 150 feet (46 m), with trunk diameters of over 72 inches (180 cm) above large basal buttresses.

Sapwood Color: The distinct sapwood is described as whitish, or yellowish-white in color.

Heartwood Color : Mahogany varies considerably in color. It may be yellowish, reddish, pinkish, or salmon colored when freshly cut, maturing into a deep rich red or brown color with age. Exposure to strong sunlight may cause some fading. The wide variability in color has enabled many look-alike species to be marketed as mahogany.

Grain: The grain is straight to roey, wavy, or curly. Irregularities in the grain often produce highly attractive figures such as, fiddleback, blister, stripe or roe, and mottle. Storied rays produce wavy horizontal bands across the surface of flat-sawn boards.

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Texture: The texture is fine or medium to coarse, and uniform. Dark colored gum or white deposits may be present in the pores.

Luster: The wood is described as highly lustrous and golden.

