

# The Colonial Woodsmyth

**Common Name:** Jatoba

**Botanical Name:** *Hymenaea courbaril*



**Other Common Names:** Alga, Algarrobo, Azucar huayo, Copal, Copinol, Courbaril, Gaupinol, Jatahy, Jatoba, Jutai, Kawanari, Locust, Pie de venado, Rode locus, Rode rode locus, Sirari, West indian locust

**Common Uses:** Bent Parts, Boat building, Cabinetmaking, Flooring, Furniture , Handles, Railroad ties, Tool handles, Turnery, Bedroom suites, Broom handles, Canoes, Chairs, Chests, Concealed parts (Furniture), Crossties, Desks, Dining-room furniture, Domestic flooring, Dowell pins, Dowells, Drawer sides, Factory flooring, Fine furniture, Floor lamps, Furniture components, Furniture squares or stock, Hatracks, Kitchen cabinets, Lifeboats, Living-room suites, Office furniture, Parquet flooring, Radio, stereo, TV cabinets, Rustic furniture, Shafts/Handles, Shipbuilding, Stools, Sub-flooring, Tables , Utility furniture, Wardrobes

**Region:** Central America, Latin America, Oceania and S.E. Asia

**Country:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Haiti, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico [US], Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

**Distribution:** The growth range of the species is reported to include Cape Verde Islands, throughout West Indies from Cuba and Jamaica to Trinidad and Tobago. Also from central Mexico to Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, and French Guiana. It is scattered in forests, pastures, and along roadsides in the moist and dry coastal and limestone regions of Puerto Rico.

**Tree Data:** Trees are reported to be often less than 100 feet (30 m) in height, with trunk diameters of 24 to 48 inches (60 to 120 cm). They sometimes attain heights of about 130 feet (40 m) and trunk diameters of 60 to 72 inches (150 to 180 cm). Trees usually develop clear boles that are 40 to 80 feet (12 to 24 m) long, and may have swollen bases or buttresses, depending upon the size.

**Sapwood Color:** The rather wide sapwood is described as white, gray, or pinkish in color and is clearly demarcated from the heartwood. It is reported to be similar to Maple in appearance.

**Heartwood Color:** The color of the freshly-cut heartwood runs from salmon-red to orange-brown. It darkens into a russet to reddish-brown color after drying, and it is frequently marked with dark streaks.

**Grain:** The grain is mostly interlocked.

**Texture:** The texture is medium to coarse.

**Luster:** Luster is reported to vary from dull to fairly lustrous.

