

FACT SHEET – Beech

Issue 2

The European Beech or Common Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) - is a deciduous tree belonging to the beech family Fagaceae.



Characteristics

The appearance varies according to its habitat; in forest conditions, it tends to have a long, slender light-gray trunk with a narrow crown and erect branches, in isolation with good side light the trunk is short with a large and widely spreading crown with very long branches. Beech grows on a wide range of soil types, acid or basic, provided they are not waterlogged. The tree canopy casts dense shade, and carpets the ground with dense leaf litter, and the ground flora beneath may be sparse.

Uses

European Beech is used in the manufacture of numerous objects and implements. Its fine and short grain makes it an easy wood to work with, easy to soak, dye (except its heartwood), varnish and glue. Steaming makes the wood even easier to machine. It has an excellent finish and is resistant to compression and splitting. Milling is sometimes difficult due to cracking and it is stiff when flexed. It is well suited for minor carpentry, particularly furniture. From chairs to parquetry (flooring) and staircases, the European Beech can do almost anything other than heavy structural support, so long as it is not left outdoors. Its hardness make it ideal for making wooden mallets and workbench tops. Common beech is also considered one of the best fuels for fireplaces easily split and burning for many hours with bright but calm flames. Beech logs are burned to dry the malts used in some German smoked beers, giving the beers their typical flavor. Beech is also used to smoke some cheeses. Chips of beech wood are used in the brewing of Budweiser beer as a fining agent.

STOCKS AVAILABLE:-

Superior One Face	-	26mm
Colour No Defect Steamed Beech	-	26mm / 32mm
Superior Steamed Beech	-	27mm / 32mm / 40mm / 52mm / 65mm

Widths	100mm & Wider
Lengths	2.1 - 3.0m Mainly