

FACT SHEET – Sapele

Issue 8

Sapele or **Aboudikro** (*Entandrophragma cylindricum*) is a large tree, up to 45m high (rarely 60m), native to tropical Africa.



General Description

The heartwood has a medium to dark reddish brown colour, characterised by a well-defined ribbon stripped figure on quarter surfaces. Sometimes, when wavy grain is present, a very attractive fiddleback figure, roe figure or occasionally, beautiful mottled figure is obtained. The grain is interlocked or wavy and the texture fairly fine. Has a Cedar like scent when fresh cut. The timber is liable to ring or cup shakes. The wood has a density of 640kg per cubic metre.

Growth

The leaves are deciduous in the dry season, alternately arranged, pinnate, with 5-9 pairs of leaflets, each leaflet about 10cm long. The flowers are produced in loose inflorescences when the tree is leafless, each flower about 5mm diameter, with five yellowish petals. The fruit is a pendulous capsule about 10cm long and 4cm broad; when mature it splits into five sections to release the 15-20 seeds.

Uses

Sapele works without difficulty with both hand and machine tools but the interlocked grain affects machining properties. It nails, screws and glues well; care is required when staining, but it provides an excellent polished finish. It is sought after as flooring for its durability and beautiful graining, quality furniture, cabinetmaking, joinery, shop-fitting and office furniture etc. Among its more exotic uses, is that in guitar manufacturing, in the top, back and sides of acoustic guitar bodies as well as the tops of electric guitar bodies. Sapele is also used for the neck piece of ukuleles due to its pleasant aesthetic quality.

STOCKS AVAILABLE:-

1"	1 ¼"	1 ½"	2"	2 ½"	3"	4"
		Widths	5" & Wider			
		Lengths	7fts & Longer			