

Ipé

Most important characteristics

Durability class

Class 1.

Strength class

D60.

Applications

[Luxury decking](#), floors, furniture, [facades](#), garden wood, but also suitable for construction work.

Specific gravity

Fresh 1200-1300 kg/m³. At 12% moisture content (950-)1050 (-1150) kg/m³.

Colour

The colour of Ipé hardwood is greenish brown-yellow.

Details

Ipé has a fairly even structure without a pronounced pattern. The wood contains the ingredient lapachol, which is visible on the longitudinal surface as (greenish) yellow stripes. Lapachol turns red in contact with ammonia. This makes ipé (Surinamese greenheart) distinguishable from, for example, Demerara greenheart. The wood is very hard and strong, difficult to split and very elastic.

Grain

Straight, sometimes cross-threads or irregular thread.

Timber texture

Fine.

Stability

Average.

Drying

Ipé wood dries quite slowly but has little tendency to deform or crack.

Hardness

13700 - 16700 N Janka.

Workability

Due to its high density, Ipé wood is difficult to work as tools will blunt quickly. While planing, it is recommended to use small cutting angles to avoid crosshair problems. Ipé can be finished smoothly. Good extraction of the wood dust is recommended, as the released lapachol dust may cause skin issues (i.e. dermatitis) in sensitive people.

Screwing/nailing

Pre-drilling is necessary for Ipé wood.

Finishing of surface

The surface of Ipé planks can be finished well.

Botanical name

Tabebuia serratifolia

Origin area

Ipé hardwood grows in Tropical Central- and South America.

Other names

Bethabara, guyacan, madera negra (Ecuador), ebène vert, ebène jaune (French Guiana), whalebone greenheart (Guyana), amapa (Mexico), guayacan (Panama), lapacho negro, guayacan (Paraguay, Argentina), tahuari (Peru), greenheart (Suriname).

Quality requirements

Ipé hardwood is mentioned in the NEN 5493 'Quality requirements for hardwood in earth, road and hydraulic engineering works and other constructive applications.

Remarks

Looking to buy Ipé wood? For the current price of Ipé, please contact us. We only supply FSC® certified tropical hardwood for responsible forest management.

Family

Bignoniaceae

Projects

[Façade cladding Dusseldorp](#), [Benches and Ipé decking planks at cemetery Sambeek](#), [Façade cladding Villa Nieuwe Horne](#).