WENGE

Millettia laurenteii

Wenge is a dense, exceptionally heavy exotic hardwood native to the tropical rainforests and swampy regions of Central Africa. This highly durable timber is world-renowned for its dark, striking aesthetic, featuring a heartwood that is nearly jet-black with contrasting, finely spaced yellowish-brown bands that create a dramatic pattern. It possesses an immense natural hardness and superb resistance to abrasion, termites, and fungal decay, making it structurally stable but challenging to cut with standard hand tools. Because of its bold visual impact, reliable dimensional stability, and outstanding acoustic resonance, Wenge is commonly used for luxury interior flooring, high-end cabinetry, exterior doors, modern furniture, and musical instruments.



Surfaced



Surfaced and clear coat

Harvested In:
Central Africa

Family:
FABACEAE (angiosperm)

WOOD DESCRIPTION

Color:	*Dark brown*
Sapwood:	*Clearly Demarcated*
Texture:	*Coarse*
Grain:	*Straight*

CHARACTERISTICS

- Easy to work
- Very durable
- Resistant to termites

COMMON USES

- Cabinetwork
- Furniture and Furniture components
- Turned goods
- Sliced veneer
- Flooring
- Paneling (interior / exterior)
- Joinery (interior / exterior)
- Sculpture

AVAILABILITY

- Select & Better
- Mixed Grain, Plain Sawn, Quarter Sawn
- 4/4, 6/4, 8/4 Thicknesses

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PHYSICAL / MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Air Dry Density	*5 lbs/bf*
Specific Gravity:	*0.87*
Janka Hardness (lbs):	*1,930*
Volumetric Shrinkage:	*12.9%*
Total Tangential Shrinkage (TS):	*9.1%*
Total Radial Shrinkage (RS):	*5.9%*
TS/RS Ratio:	*1.5*

Fiber Saturation Point:	*22%*
Crushing Strength:	*12,328 lbf/in²*
Static Bending Strength:	*20,885 lbf/in²*
Modulus of Elasticity:	*3,053,044 lbf/in²*
Stability:	*Moderate*

** Based on 12% Moisture Content*

WORKING / FINISHING PROPERTIES

Blunting Effect:	*Fairly High*
Sawteeth Recommended:	*Stellite-tipped*
Cutting Tools:	*Tungsten carbide*
Peeling:	*Not recommended*

Slicing:	*Good*
Nailing / Screwing:	*Pre-boring necessary*
Gluing:	*Poor*

Note: Risks of splits when nailing. Gluing is difficult and the wood can be stained, if not careful.



