ACAJOU D'AFRIQUE

Source

FSC Acajou is available in the forests of Precious Woods, located in the Congo Basin of Gabon. The tree attains heights up to 55 m and diameters of 80 – 100 – 150 cm (sometimes 180 cm). The trunks are straight and cylindrical and often have buttress root boards.

Appearance

The different species of the Khaya-group are difficult to distinguish. Depending on the growing conditions, the appearance and the properties can vary. The heartwood of freshly sawn Acajou has a pink color. After exposure to light the color changes to pinkish red or brown red. After years, the color could be somewhat irregular. The 30-80 mm thick sapwood is yellowish to light pink. When fresh, the color difference between sapwood and heartwood is not great, but after exposure to the light, it becomes much clearer. The wood structure is often irregular and interlocked. The texture is medium fine to coarse.

Processing properties

The machining of Acajou can be done easily. Pre-drilling is recommended. The gluing and properties are good, but the finishing requires additional measures (e.g. filling of the pores). It dries moderately slowly, sometimes with risks of cracking and deformation.

Application

Acajou (Congo-Khaya) is mentioned on the SKH publication 99-05 which means that the timber is approved for production of KOMO certified door and window frames, doors and windows. Furthermore, it can also be used for façades, garden timber, panelling, furniture and upscale interiors. Acajou is also used for the panelling of (small) luxury yachts.

Technical properties

Green density	700-850 kg/m^3
Density (at 12%)	490-530 kg/m^3
Shrinkage green – oven dry	5,0% radial; 8,4% tangential
Shrinkage green – 65% RH (abt. 12% EMC)	2,5% radial; 4,5% tangential
Equilibrium Moisture Content (EMC)	13,5% (at 60% RH) 12,0% (at 90% RH)
Fibre Saturation Point (FSP)	28%
Durability according to EN 113 (without soil contact)	Heartwood class 3
Durability according to ENV 807 (with soil contact)	Heartwood class 3
Durability according to EN 350:2016	Heartwood class 3 (in-ground tested)
Bending strength, MOR (defect free samples)	74 N/mm^2
Modulus of elasticity, MOE (defect free samples)	9.600 N/mm^2
Shear strength (defect free samples)	10,4 N/mm^2
Janka hardness	3.700 N (parallel)
The figures in this table are mainly indicative, unless a specific standard is mentioned, which provides exact figures.	

References

This information is based on research (mainly independent) and experience of Precious Woods, (semi-) scientific literature and the (Dutch) Houtvademecum (10th edition 2010).

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