



## **Guayabo Negro (Terminalia amazonia)**

Family: Combretaceae

Other Common Names: Almendro (Honduras), Canshán (Mexico), Amarillo carabazuelo (Panama), Guayabo león (Colombia), Pardillo negro (Venezuela), Pau-mulato brancho (Brazil).

Distribution: Southern Mexico southward through Central America and into northern South America to Brazil and Peru; also Trinidad. The tree is common in the Wallaba forests of Guyana. Concentrations of four to five trees per acre are not unusual in Belize.

The Tree: May reach a height of 140 ft with diameters of 4 to 5 ft. Trees with diameters over 20 to 25 in. are often hollow. Long, clear, symmetrical boles are 60 to 70 ft long above the large buttresses.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: Heartwood variable from yellowish olive to golden brown, sometimes with prominent reddish-brown stripes; not readily separated from the yellowish sapwood. Luster medium to rather high; texture medium; grain roe; without distinctive odor or taste in dry material.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (oven dry weight/green volume) 0.58 to 0.73; air- dry density 44 to 56 pcf.

Drying and Shrinkage: Very variable in seasoning characteristics; some material reported easy to dry with little or no degrade; other material dried with difficulty and with considerable warp and checking. Kiln schedule T3-C2 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T3-C1 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to oven dry: radial 6.4%; tangential 8.7%; volumetric 14.9%.

Working Properties: Generally reported to be somewhat fair to difficult to work with hand and machine tools; straight-grained material planes well, some tearing occurs on strongly roe surfaces.

Durability: Pure culture tests showed the wood to be durable to both a white-rot and brown-rot fungus. Results of graveyard tests indicate considerable variability from very durable to only slight or fair resistance. Reported to be resistant to dry-wood termites but not to subterranean termites.

Preservation: Heartwood is extremely resistant to preservation treatments, treatability of sapwood is variable.

Uses: Flooring, railroad crossties, furniture and cabinet work, shipbuilding, turnery, general construction, utility plywood. It is suggested as a possible substitute for oak.