

# Bubinga

Botanical Name: *Guibourtia demeusei*

Other names: African rosewood, essingang (Cameroon); kevasingo (rotary cut) (UK); buvenga (Gabon)

Distribution: The timber primarily grows in Cameroon, Gabon, and Zaire.

General description: The wood is medium red-brown with lighter red to purple veining. The heartwood is pink, vivid red, or red-brown with purple streaks, which upon exposure becomes yellow or medium brown with a reddish tint. The grain is straight or interlocked, In some logs the grain is very irregular and these are converted by peeling into rotary veneers called kevasingo. Pomelle Bubinga is a beautiful and popular figure that occasionally develops in the lumber. The texture is fine to moderately fine and even. The weight ranges from 50 to 60 pounds per cubic foot with a specific gravity of .88. Bubinga may cause dermatitis.

Mechanical properties: The timber has low steam bending qualities and exudation of gum from gum pockets can cause problems. The wood dries easily except for the gum pockets, with little degrade and the wood is stable in service (less than 3% based on the sum of the radial and tangential movements when the wood is taken from 90% to 60 % humidity.) It works well with both power and machine tools. Interlocked or irregular grained material tends to tear or pick up and a reduced cutting edge of 15 degrees is necessary for planing or molding. There is a moderate to severe blunting effect on cutting edges which must be kept sharp. Nailing requires pre-boring; gluing can be difficult due to gum pockets, but the wood stains easily and can be brought to an excellent finish.

Durability: The wood is moderately durable but liable to attack by the common furniture beetle. The sapwood is permeable and the heartwood is resistant to preservative treatment.

Uses: Bubinga is an excellent turnery wood. It is used for knife handles, brush backs and fancy goods. The chief use is for sliced decorative veneers for cabinets and paneling, particularly the rotary cut kevasingo, with a wild, swirling, veined figure. Bubinga is also used for flooring, cabinetry, and furniture building.



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