



Beech

BOTANICAL NAMES

Fagus sylvatica L.

It belongs to the Fagaceae family.

TRADE NAMES

Faggio Italia

Hêtre Francia

Beech Gran Bretagna

GROWTH AREA

The tree grows throughout Europe, from Norway to the Mediterranean countries. In Italy it is particularly common in temperate climate zones called Fagetum, which extend from the Alps to the Apennines.

TECHNOLOGICAL FEATURES

Sapwood and heartwood are not differentiated. It may happen that the sapwood appears darker (false heartwood). The texture is fine with straight grain. The medullary rays are evident and, in the radial sections, appear as very characteristic shiny speckles. The beech is easy prey to fungal attacks, especially if it is left in a humid environment; in this case, alterations in the wood structure can occur and are defined as soiling (cooked beech). In order to improve its durability it is subjected to vaporization and this operation gives it a reddish-brown coloring.

DRYING METHOD

The drying process takes place slowly to avoid the risk of cracking, deformation or collapse.

SPECIFIC WEIGHT

Air cured, it has a specific weight ranging from 650 to 850 Kg/m³.

MAIN USES AND WORKING

The wood is easy to work: it can be sawn, turned, bent, and dyed easily. Normally joints with nails and screws are resistant, but it is advisable to proceed with a preventive pre-drilling. It is widely used in carpentry or cabinetmaking to make various crafts. This material can be used to make various agricultural tools, shoe lasts, rifle stocks, shuttles, and loom spools. It is also widely used in the construction of curved chairs.

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"Details make perfection
and perfection is not a
detail."