



Chestnut

BOTANICAL NAMES

Castanea sativa

It belongs to the Fagaceae family.

TRADE NAMES

Sweet chestnut, Spanish chestnut - Great Britain

Châtaignier - France

Castagno - Italy

GROWING AREA

Originating in Asia, the chestnut tree has long grown throughout Mediterranean Europe, as far as southern England. In Italy, it can be found in the area known as Castanetum, which extends from the Alps to Sicily.

TECHNOLOGICAL FEATURES

The sapwood, which is narrow and yellowish-white in color, is clearly distinguishable from the heartwood, which is light brown in fresh wood and tends to darken over time. Because of its appearance, it can be deceptively similar to oak, but it does not have the characteristic mottling. Coarse-textured, straight-grained, this tree is long-lived and reaches a considerable size. However, as a result of grafting and pruning to facilitate fruit production, it is difficult to find trees with regular growth and subsequent development of the woody part. The old trunks are usually considerably damaged at the base or sometimes even hollow. The heartwood is durable and resistant to fungal and insect attack as well as fire.

SPECIFIC WEIGHT

Air-dried, its average specific weight is 600 Kg/m³.

DRYING METHOD

Being extremely susceptible to cracking, deformation and even collapse, drying takes place slowly.

MAIN USES AND WORKING

Normally grown for its fruit, the chestnut tree also provides an excellent wood that is easy to work. Because of its weather resistance, it is often used for outdoor construction, poles, floorboards, rustic furniture, beams, railway sleepers, staves, window frames, and decorative veneers. The wood is particularly rich in tannin, therefore it is often used for the tanning of leather.

ZANUSOlegno

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