



Purpleheart

BOTANICAL NAMES

Peltogyne venosa

It belongs to the Leguminosae cesaipiniaceae family

TRADE NAMES

Amarante - France

Purpleheart - Great Britain

Guarabú, pau roxo, ipé roxo - Brazil

Morena, morado, nazareno - Venezuela

GROWING AREA

The tree can be found from Mexico to the Amazon and southern Brazil, practically all over tropical America.

TECHNOLOGICAL FEATURES

The sapwood is whitish in color, unlike the heartwood, which, in fresh wood, has a greyish-brownish hue tending to turn, after seasoning or prolonged exposure to air, to the characteristic purplish color. Its texture is fine to medium, and its grain is characterized by striations due to the counter-edge when quarter cut. It is a hard, heavy, and durable wood, but it is usually preferred to remove the sapwood, as it is easy prey for fungi and insects.

SPECIFIC WEIGHT

Depending on the growth area, its specific weight can vary from 800 to over 1000 kg/m³ with a maximum value of 880.

DRYING METHOD

Purpleheart has no particular tendency to crack or emboss, so the natural drying process is easy. Artificial drying, on the other hand, requires special attention for thicker pieces, where there are difficulties in extracting moisture from the heart of the wood.

MAIN USES AND WORKING

Easy to work, but sometimes the presence of the counter-edge can create some difficulties. Careful planing is sufficient to achieve a remarkable sheen. Even coating is easy. Joints with glue and screws are effective, but nails require preliminary drilling. Turning and shearing are easy and successful, although prolonged exposure to steam can lead to discoloration. Purpleheart is a valuable wood, mainly used for fine cabinetry, turned objects, floorboards, and decorative veneers. It is also used for shipbuilding and for poles submerged in non-stagnant water.

ZANUSOlegno

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