



Vitex – *Vitex cofassus*

OTHER NAMES: Vasa, New Guinea Teak

REGION OF ORIGIN: Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Vitex is a durable hardwood with a pale yellowish to creamy-grey appearance. Texture is fine and slightly lustrous with an even grain. When freshly cut the timber has a leathery odour and the timber is greasy to the touch. Vitex is sourced from low-impact, village-based operations in the Solomon Islands.

MAIN USES

Used primarily in outdoor applications for decking, boardwalks and exterior joinery. Sometimes used in boatbuilding as a teak substitute. As a kiln dried product can also be used for T&G strip flooring.

WORKING PROPERTIES

The timber is converted without difficulty. It planes and machines well and is easy to cut across the grain.

A good finish can be obtained and it has good bending qualities and holds nails well without pre-drilling.

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Vitex is a dense hard wood with above average crushing and bending strength and medium stiffness and resistance to shock loads.

AVAILABILITY

Specifications stocked at Rosenfeld Kidson are: Sawn 25mm, 40mm, 50mm, 75mm and 100mm thicknesses in varying fixed widths. Various machined decking profiles.

GRADING

Select.

DENSITY (kg/m3)*:

800

DURABILITY:

Durable

STRENGTH GROUP:

SD3, SD4

MOR (MPa):

Unseasoned
74

Seasoned
108

MOE(GPa):

Unseasoned
11.1

Seasoned
13.1

JANKA(kN):

5.0

SHRINKAGE GREEN TO 12% M.C.

Tangential

Radial

6.0

3.5

*Air Dry Density (kg/m3) is average indication only and actual value may vary. Refer to timber properties tables over page for strength, shrinkage and durability classifications.

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**Rosenfeld
Kidson**

TIMBER PROPERTIES

STRENGTH GROUPINGS

| Minimum values for strength groups (unseasoned timber) | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| (units are Mpa = 145 lb/sq.inch) | | | |
| Strength group | Modulus of rupture | Modulus of elasticity | Maximum crushing strength |
| S1 | 103 | 16300 | 52 |
| S2 | 76 | 14200 | 43 |
| S3 | 73 | 12400 | 36 |
| S4 | 62 | 10700 | 31 |
| S5 | 52 | 9100 | 26 |
| S6 | 43 | 7900 | 22 |
| S7 | 36 | 6900 | 18 |

| Minimum values for strength groups (seasoned timber) | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| (units are Mpa = 145 lb/sq.inch) | | | |
| Strength group | Modulus of rupture | Modulus of elasticity | Maximum crushing strength |
| SD1 | 150 | 21500 | 80 |
| SD2 | 130 | 18500 | 70 |
| SD3 | 110 | 16000 | 61 |
| SD4 | 94 | 14000 | 54 |
| SD5 | 78 | 12500 | 47 |
| SD6 | 65 | 10500 | 41 |
| SD7 | 55 | 9100 | 36 |
| SD8 | 45 | 7900 | 30 |

SHRINKAGE CLASSIFICATIONS

| Description of shrinkage | Shrinkage from Green to Oven-dry (12% MC) | |
|--------------------------|---|--------|
| | (%) before reconditioning | |
| | Tangential | Radial |
| Very Low | 0 - 3.5 | 0 - 2 |
| Low | 3.5 - 5.0 | 2 - 3 |
| Medium | 5.0 - 6.5 | 3 - 4 |
| High | 6.5 - 8.0 | 4 - 5 |
| Very High | > 8.0 | > 5 |

DURABILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

| Grade of durability | Approximate service life (years) | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | Fully Protected | Above ground, exposed | In-ground, exposed |
| Very Durable | > 50 | > 40 | > 25 |
| Durable | > 50 | 15 - 40 | 15 - 25 |
| Moderately Durable | > 50 | 7 - 15 | 5 - 15 |
| Non-Durable | > 50 | 0 - 7 | 0 - 5 |

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