



## 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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**STRENGTH GROUPINGS**

<b>Minimum values for strength groups (unseasoned timber)</b>			
<i>(units are Mpa = 145 lb/sq.inch)</i>			
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

<b>Minimum values for strength groups (seasoned timber)</b>			
<i>(units are Mpa = 145 lb/sq.inch)</i>			
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**

<b>Description of shrinkage</b>	<b>Shrinkage from Green to Oven-dry (12% MC)</b>	
	<b>(%) before reconditioning</b>	
	<b>Tangential</b>	<b>Radial</b>
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**

<b>Grade of durability</b>	<b>Approximate service life (years)</b>		
	<b>Fully Protected</b>	<b>Above ground, exposed</b>	<b>In-ground, exposed</b>
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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