

# Teak



max. 35 metres



max. 1 metres

## Occurrence

The teak tree is native to South and Southeast Asia. Today its occurrence extends over the entire tropical area in Africa, Central and South America. Water-rich and well-ventilated soils offer ideal growing conditions. Since it is a light-demanding species, the tree grows particularly quickly in open spaces.

## Significance

The teak tree is one of the few tropical woods that can be cultivated on plantations. The rotation period is 18-25 years on plantations and 60-100 years on natural stands.

## Threats

The tree is not endangered despite its popularity. However, due to the demand and the good prices that can be achieved, the tree is often cut down illegally.

## At ForestFinance

The teak tree grows on our fincas in Panama and can be found in the regions of Chiriquí, Veraguas, Panama and Darién.

## Characteristics

### Leaves

*The green, elliptic leaves grow up to 60 cm long and 35 cm wide. The tree sheds its leaves for three to five months a year.*

### Bark

*The 1.5 cm thick bark of the teak tree is fire-resistant, longitudinally cracked and grey-brown in colour.*

### Fruits

*The bright green ovaries ripen two to three months after flowering, turn brown and become dry. The spherical fruits then have a diameter of approx. 1.5 cm.*

### Flowers

*In the tropical rainy season between July and September the cream-coloured flowers bloom.*

## Teak

FAMILY LAMIACEAE

GENUS TECTONA

SPECIES TECTONA GRANDIS



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## Description of wood

What is typical for teak wood is the unusual colouring of the sapwood and heartwood. The sapwood is yellowish and encloses the golden, brownish shimmering heartwood, which is very resistant to pests. In addition to its great colouring, teak is often used because of its good processing options and high weather resistance.



## Teak

FAMILY LAMIACEAE  
GENUS *TECTONA*  
SPECIES *TECTONA GRANDIS*


DENSITY

0.55-0.75 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

JANKA HARDNESS


1155 lbf

## Use




Teak wood can be used for many purposes. For hardwood flooring, sliced veneers, furniture, panelling and shipbuilding. The latter due to its particular quality that a teak wooden deck does not become slippery when wet.

## Processing



Also, with the right processing, teak wood retains its shiny surface and is therefore quite an eye-catcher. For extra protection, furniture can be treated with teak oil.

## Growth



Teak trees grow quite quickly in open spaces as light-demanding trees, which is why they are often planted at the beginning of afforestation projects. In addition, teak trees provide plenty of shade for other plants due to their wide crown.



In Spanish-speaking countries teak is called teca.

In India it is known under the name sagwan and in Laos and Thailand under may-sak.