



IRONBARK

(Eucalyptus drepanophylla, Eucalyptus siderophloia, Eucalyptus decepta)

Ironbark is a premium native hardwood that has been well regarded as a high quality timber in Australia throughout human history. Indigenous Australians use it to make spear throwers and boil its bark for treating sores. It is a particularly hard, strong and durable timber, with a broad range of applications, due to its resistance to lyctid borers and termites. The Ironbark is a medium sized tree of 30 to 50m with a stem diameter of 1.5m. The bark is hard, coarse, with deep furrows and ridges, ranging from dark brown to black in colour and grows even on the small branches. *E. drepanophylla* is found from northern New South Wales to Bundaberg, Queensland. It is also found in scattered patches as far north as the Atherton Tableland. *E. paniculata* is found in New South Wales only from Bega to Coffs Harbour. A very heavy timber, at 1120 kilograms per cubic metre, grey ironbark is dense and can be difficult to work. Dressed surfaces take on a steely sheen.



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

COLOUR

Red ironbark heartwood is a deep dark red to red-brown. By contrast, its sapwood is a distinctive pale yellow in colour. The timber's texture is fine and even with an interlocked grain. It is extremely hardwearing and highly durable, allowing for wide range of external applications. However the timber is very hard to work, limiting some applications that require fine detailing. It is slow to dry and care needs to be taken to minimise surface checking.

Grey Ironbark timber's appearance ranges from reddish to dark brown heartwood. The sapwood is lighter in colour and is 20mm thick on average. Grain is usually tight and straight and no distinctive figure is encountered.

DENSITY

Unseasoned: 1170KG/m³ Seasoned: 1050KG/m³

GRAIN

Tight and usually straight grained.

STRENGTH

S1 unseasoned; SD1 seasoned.

STRUCTURAL RATINGS

F14, F17, F22, F27 (unseasoned), F22, F27, F34, F34 (seasoned)

HARDNESS (JANKA)

16kN (Seasoned) & 11kN (Unseasoned)

TERMITE RESISTANCE

Resistant

SHRINKAGE TO 12% MC

7.5% (tangential); 4.7% (radial)

DURABILITY ABOVE GROUND

Very High – More than 40 Years

DURABILITY IN GROUND

High – 15-25 Years

WORKING PROPERTIES

Ironbark has been employed for decorative purposes such as in outdoor furniture, turning and joinery, although its density makes it hard to work in applications requiring fine detail. It is slow drying and should be handled carefully to avoid surface checking.

USES

Red and Grey ironbark is ideal for engineered structures that require excellent durability and strength, including wharf and bridge members, poles, railway sleepers, mining timbers. The timber is also suitable for all building construction materials from poles, framing, flooring, decking and cladding. Additionally, the wood is suitable for both indoor and outdoor furniture.

