

GUATAMBU
BALFOURDENDRON RIEDELIANUM

Other Common Names: Marfim, Pau liso (Brazil), Guatambu, Guatambu blanco (Argentina).



Distribution: State of Sao Paulo, Brazil; northern and central Paraguay; and the Selva Misionera, Argentina.

The Tree: A small to medium-sized tree rarely up to 80 ft high and 30 in. in diameter. Has well-formed, straight bole up to 30 ft high.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: A nearly white or pale yellowish-brown wood without apparent contrast between sapwood and heartwood. Luster medium; grain generally straight; texture fine and uniform; without distinctive odor or taste.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (oven-dry weight/green volume) averages 0.73 for wood grown in Brazil and 0.65 for Argentinean material. Air-dry density averages about 50 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (2-cm standard)

Moisture content (%)	Bending strength (Psi)	Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)	Maximum crushing strength (Psi)
Green (30)	15,170	1,665	6,320
15%	19,870	NA	8,535

Amsler air-dry toughness 581 in.-lb (2-cm specimen).

Drying and Shrinkage: Can be dried without excessive degrade. Kiln schedule T6-C3 is suggested for 4/4 stock, and schedule T5-C2 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 4.6%; tangential 8.8%; volumetric 13.4%.

Working Properties: Limited information suggests that the wood can be sawn and worked without undue difficulty. It is non-siliceous and non-resinous and unlikely to have a marked blunting effect on tools; easy to finish and is reported to glue satisfactorily.

Durability: Heartwood is rated as nondurable.

Preservation: Reported to be resistant to treatment by pressure methods.

Uses: Furniture, cabinetwork, tool handles, flooring, turnery. Suggested as a substitute for birch and hard maple.

SOURCE: US Department of Agriculture – Forest Service

