

Meranti, Light Red

Shorea spp, Shorea acuminata, Shorea leprosula, Shorea parvifolia, Shorea macroptera, Shorea ovalis, Shorea dasphylla, Shorea lepidota, Shorea palembanica, Shorea teysmanniana, Shorea platycarpa, Shorea albida, Shorea quadrinervis, Shorea smithiana. Also known as: light red meranti, white lauan, light red seraya, perawan, meranti bunga, alan bunga, seraya merah, red meranti, lauan.



WOOD TYPE Hardwood

INTRODUCTION The above species produce light red meranti from Malaysia.

ENVIRONMENTAL Many species of Shorea appear on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and are classified as: CR – Critically Endangered: at very high risk of extinction in the wild / EN – Endangered: at high risk of extinction in the wild / VU – Vulnerable: at risk of extinction. Not listed in CITES. Believed available from well-managed sources.

DISTRIBUTION Malaysia

THE TREE The various species of Shorea grow to a height of 45m or so and a diameter of 1.2m or a little more, with long, clean, cylindrical boles above small buttresses.

THE TIMBER Sapwood lighter-coloured and usually distinct from the heartwood which is light-red or pinkish-brown; planed surfaces fairly lustrous, stripe figure on radial surfaces, with subtle, but attractive speckles caused by the rays. Texture rather coarse, but even, grain interlocked and wavy. Resin canals which may, or may not be plugged with white resin occur in tangential lines on end grain surfaces, but the wood is not resinous like keruing. The wood varies in weight according to species from 400 kg/m³ to 705 kg/m³ but averages about 550 kg/m³ when dried.

DRYING The various types of meranti/seraya are reported to dry rapidly and well, with little degrade. Some slight distortion and surface checking may occur in the denser types. 'Malayan Forest Service Trade Leaflet No 8' gives the following information regarding the air drying times for red meranti dried under cover in Malaysia. From about 60 per cent moisture content to 18 per cent moisture content: 25mm boards 2 to 3 months, 38mm boards 3 to 4 months, 50mm boards approximately 5 months.

STRENGTH There is a wide variation in the strength properties of the various merantis and red seraya due to the differences in density and the number of species involved. Large, over-mature logs are frequently spongy in the heart, the wood in these areas being weak and brittle. Despite the fact that the best type of light red meranti is almost equal in strength to the weakest type of dark red meranti, there is nevertheless on average, a distinct difference in mechanical properties. The average figure for strength and stiffness in bending and compression for dark red meranti is about 20 per cent higher than that for light red meranti; in shear there is about 10 per cent difference, and in hardness, over 30 per cent. According to these values, light red meranti is almost equal to oak in strength properties, but oak is much harder, while Scots pine has only about 75 per cent of the general strength of light red meranti. White and yellow meranti are reported to have similar, properties to those of American mahogany, but with lower resistance to splitting in the tangential plane in the case of white meranti.

WORKING QUALITIES Medium - The wood of the various species work well and in general are capable of a good smooth surface, but a reduction of cutting angle to 20° is beneficial where a tendency for the grain to tear becomes apparent. The dulling effect on saws and cutters varies somewhat with the species, but is usually quite small, except in the case of white meranti which generally contains a fairly high amount of silica in the ray cells. The various species can be glued, nailed and screwed satisfactorily, and can be stained and polished quite well after suitable filling.

Durability	Slightly durable	Density (mean, Kg/m³)	550 (Density can vary by 20% or more)
Treatability	Extremely difficult	Texture	Medium
	Moderately easy (Sapwood)	Colour(s)	Pink/pale red, Reddish brown
Moisture Movement	Small	Use(s)	Joinery - Exterior, Joinery - Interior, Furniture