

Meranti, Yellow

Shorea spp, Shorea resina-nigra, Shorea balanocarpoides, Shorea gibbosa, Shorea maxima, Shorea multiflora, Shorea faguetiana, Shorea hopeifolia, Shorea acuminatissima. Also known as: yellow meranti, yellow seraya, meranti damar hitam, lun, lun kuning, seraya kacha, selangan kacha.



WOOD TYPE Hardwood

INTRODUCTION The above species produce the yellow meranti of Brunei, and Sarawak, where the local name is lun, or lun kuning. Shorea acuminatissima Sym., S. faguetiana Helm., S. gibbosa Brandis. These are the principal species producing yellow seraya of Sabah, where the local names are also seraya kacha, and selangan kacha.

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 in colour and moderately distinct from the heartwood, which is light-yellow-brown, often with a greenish or olive tinge, weathering to a light brown colour; planed surfaces without lustre, faint stripe figure on radial surfaces. The texture is moderately fine or moderately coarse but even, and the grain is interlocked. It varies in weight from 576 kg/m³ to 736 kg/m³ but averages about 660 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.

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	Chemical Properties	–
Treatability	Extremely difficult	Colour(s)	Light brown, Yellow brown (greenish or olive tinges)
Moisture Movement	Small	Use(s)	Joinery - Exterior, Joinery - Interior, Marine or freshwater construction, Furniture
Density (mean, Kg/m³)	660 (Density can vary by 20% or more)		
Texture	Medium		