

*Podocarpus spp.*  
Family: Podocarpaceae  
Podo

**Other Common Names:** Yellowwood (South Africa), Wiriwiri, Mse, Mushunga (Tanzania), Musenene, Sapta (Uganda).

**Distribution:** Species supplying commercial timber are widely distributed in the highlands of East Africa, mainly in Kenya south to Zimbabwe.

**The Tree:** May attain a height of 100 ft or more with diameters mostly 1.5 to 2.5 ft.

**The Wood:**  
**General Characteristics:** Uniform light yellowish brown with no clear distinction between sapwood and heartwood, sometimes showing red streaks due to presence of compression wood. Texture very fine and even; grain straight; growth rings usually indistinct; resin ducts absent.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.43; air-dry density 32 pcf.

**Mechanical Properties:** (First set of data based on the 2-cm standard; second set on the 2-in. standard.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moisture content (%</th>
<th>Bending strength (Psi)</th>
<th>Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)</th>
<th>Maximum crushing strength (Psi)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green (40)</td>
<td>6,950</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11,900</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>6,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12% (1)</td>
<td>10,230</td>
<td>1,385</td>
<td>6,470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Janka side hardness 560 lb for green material and 830 lb for dry.

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Dries fairly rapidly with some checking and a pronounced tendency to warp. Distortion can be minimized if the timber pile is weighted. Kiln schedule T2-D4 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T2-D3 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 2.8%; tangential 5.1%. Movement in service is rated as small.

**Working Properties:** Easy to work with hand and machine tools, takes an excellent finish, shapes and turns well, glues easily, easy to veneer, moderate steam-bending properties.

**Durability:** Heartwood has low durability and liable to termite damage as well as other insect attack.

**Preservation:** Easy to treat, open-tank treatments result in preservative oil absorptions of 14 to 25 pcf. Retentions of around 40 pcf can be obtained with a pressure treatment.
Uses: General construction, joinery, millwork, furniture components, boxes and crates, food containers, utility plywood.

Additional Reading: (1), (3), (6), (40)