



## ***Cinnamomum spp.***

### ***Family: Lauraceae***

### ***Cinnamon Wood***

### ***Camphor Wood***

**Other Common Names:** Dalchini, Ohez, Gondhori (India), Karawe, Hmanthein (Burma), Kayu (Sabah), Kalingag (Philippines), Kusunoki (Japan).

**Distribution:** The various species are widely distributed in Southeast Asia, Southern China, Formosa, Japan, and southwards to Australia. Widely planted in tropical and subtropical parts of the world.

**The Tree:** Generally 60 to 100 ft in height with straight cylindrical boles 40 ft in length. Trunk diameters may range from 2 to 4 ft.

#### **The Wood:**

**General Characteristics:** Heartwood light yellowish-, olive-, reddish-, brownish gray to red, reddish brown, orange brown, or light brown, varying with species; not sharply demarcated from sapwood in some species. Sometimes figured with dark streaks; grain straight, interlocked, or wavy; texture medium coarse to fine; more less lustrous; often fragrant with odors of camphor, anise oil, or other scents, without distinctive taste.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) varies with species 0.35 to 0.50; air-dry density 26 to 39 pcf.

#### **Mechanical Properties:** (2-cm standard)

Moisture content	Bending strength	Modulus of elasticity	Maximum crushing strength
(%)	(Psi)	(1,000 psi)	(Psi)
12% (51)	10,700	NA	5,660

Amsler toughness 120 in.-lb for dry material (2-cm specimen).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Generally reported to air season with little or no degrade, some species have a tendency to warp. A kiln schedule similar to T1 0-D2 has been suggested. Shrinkage green to ovendry; volumetric 7.4%. Reported to be moderately stable in use.

**Working Properties:** Easy to saw and works well with both hand and machine tools, finishes smoothly.

**Durability:** Variable with species; some reported to be durable in ground contact and largely immune to insect attack.

**Preservation:** No information available.

**Uses:** Cabinetwork, trunks, chests and caskets, furniture, wardrobes. Trees in this group are cultivated for cinnamon spice, natural camphor, and other aromatic oils.

**Additional Reading:** (29), (47), (51)

Japan: Wood Ind. 1956. Japanese woods: *Cinnamomum camphora*). Suppl. to Wood Ind., Tokyo 11(6).

Pearson, R.S., and H.P. Brown. 1932. Commercial timbers of India. Gov. of India Central Publ. Br., Calcutta.

Sallenave, P. 1955. Propriétés physiques et mécaniques des bois tropicaux de l'union Française. Publ. Centre Tech. For. Trop. No. 8, Nogent-sur-Marne.

***From: Chudnoff, Martin. 1984. Tropical Timbers of the World. USDA Forest Service. Ag. Handbook No. 607.***