**Juglans spp.**  
**Family: Juglandaceae**  
**Nogal**  
**Tropical Walnut**

**Other Common Names:** Nogal silvestre, Nuez meca (Mexico), Nogal blanco, Tocte (Peru) Nogal criollo (Argentina).

**Distribution:** Varying with species, these walnuts range from southern Mexico, through Central America, and the Cordilleras of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Also found in mountain regions of Argentina.

**The Tree:** Mostly up to 60 ft in height with diameters up to 36 in.; sometimes free from branches for 30 ft but more frequently clear to 10 or 15 ft.

**The Wood:**  
**General Characteristics:** Heartwood chocolate brown and generally darker than the North American black walnut, sometimes with a purplish cast; sharply demarcated from the whitish sapwood. Texture rather coarse; luster high; grain straight to irregular; odor and taste mild but distinctive.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.50; air-dry density 38 pcf.

**Mechanical Properties:** (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>15% (69)</td>
<td>9,100</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>5,180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Drying and Shrinkage:** The wood dries very slowly, wet zones persist, and severe honeycombing and collapse may occur in stock thicker than 4/4. Air-drying as thoroughly as possible before kiln drying is suggested. Kiln schedule T6-D4 is proposed for 4/4 stock and T3-D3 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 2.8%; tangential 5.5%.

**Working Properties:** The wood works well, cutting cleanly with hand and machine tools and taking an excellent finish; also peels and slices readily but the veneers are also reported to dry slowly.

**Durability:** No data available.

**Preservation:** Very low permeability is reported.

**Uses:** Decorative veneers, furniture, cabinet work, interior finish, and other applications similar to North American black walnut.

**Additional Reading:** (8), (38), (56), (69)