**Magnolia spp.**  
**Family: Magnoliaceae**  
**Magnolia**  
**Vaco**

**Other Common Names:** Laurel sabino (Puerto Rico), Corpus, Elosuchil, Semiramis (Mexico), candelilo (Costa Rica), Vaco (Panama).

**Distribution:** Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies; mostly in the highlands.

**The Tree:** Tree heights are 70 to 100 ft with diameters occasionally up to 5 ft or more, commonly 3 ft. Boles are straight with clear lengths of 40 ft and more; sometimes buttressed.

**The Wood:**  
**General Characteristics:** Heartwood olive green when freshly cut becoming light yellowish brown to greenish brown sometimes with a purplish tinge upon exposure; purple, dark brown, darkening somewhat on exposure. Texture fine and uniform; luster low to moderate; grain straight to interlocked; without distinctive odor or taste.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) varying with the species from 0.45 to 0.59; air-dry density 34 to 44 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>Green (74)</td>
<td>8,560</td>
<td>1,690</td>
<td>3,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>14,250</td>
<td>1,970</td>
<td>7,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12% (62)</td>
<td>11,500</td>
<td>1,450</td>
<td>_</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Janka side hardness 860 lb for green material and 1,090 lb at 12% moisture content. Forest Products Laboratory toughness average for green and dry material is 118 in.-lb. (5/8-in. specimen).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** All species are easy to air-season; the wood dries rapidly with no or slight warp and checking. No data available on kiln schedules. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 3.6%; tangential 7.0%; volumetric 11.2%.

**Working Properties:** The wood saws and machines easily, however in planning there may be considerable tearing where grain is irregular. *M. sororum* is reported to be fair to good in steam-bending quality.

**Durability:** Heartwood is rated durable to highly durable with respect to deterioration by both white-rot and brown-rot fungi but vulnerable to dry-wood termite attack.
**Preservation:** Heartwood is resistant to moisture absorption and is probably difficult to treat

**Uses:** Utility veneer and plywood, millwork, furniture and cabinet work, general interior and exterior construction, boat planking, and turnery.

**Additional Reading:** (45), (62), (74)