Tabebuia spp. (Roble group)
Family: Bignoniaceae
Roble
Mayflower

Other Common Names: Roble (Spanish America), Amapa, Roble blanco (Mexico), Roble blanco, Roble de sabana (Costa Rica), Roble del rio (Colombia), Apamate (Venezuela).

Distribution: From the West Indies and southern Mexico to Venezuela and Ecuador. Inhabits various sites from wet lowlands to dry mountainsides.

The Tree: A medium-sized tree 40 to 60 ft high, but occasionally reaching a height of 90 ft; diameters commonly 18 to 24 in., sometimes reaching 36 in.; buttresses often extend to 10 ft above the ground; widely planted as an ornamental.

The Wood:
General Characteristics: Heartwood light brown to golden; not clearly differentiated from the sapwood. Luster low to medium; texture medium to rather coarse; grain straight to roey; without distinctive odor or taste when dry.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.52; air-dry density 40 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (First two sets of data based on the 2-in. standard, the third set on the 1-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) 12%</td>
<td>10,770</td>
<td>1,450</td>
<td>4,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green (40) 12%</td>
<td>9,600</td>
<td>1,620</td>
<td>5,030</td>
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<tr>
<td>12% (41)</td>
<td>14,700</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>7,050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Janka side hardness for green wood 910 lb, 960 lb at 12% moisture content. Forest Products Laboratory toughness average for green and dry material is 147 in.-lb (5/8-in. specimen).

Drying and Shrinkage: The wood air-seasons and kiln-dries rapidly with little or no checking and warping. Kiln schedule T6-D2 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T3-D1 for 8/4. Shrinkage from green to ovendry: radial 3.6%; tangential 6.1%; volumetric 9.5%.

Working Properties: The wood has excellent machining characteristics but some care required in planing to prevent torn and chipped grain. Finishes well, easy to glue. With care, cuts well into sliced veneer.
**Durability:** Both pure culture tests and field evaluations indicate the wood to be moderately durable to very durable; reported to be very susceptible to dry-wood termite attack and little resistance to marine borers.

**Preservation:** Penetration and absorption of preservative solutions are low, even in the sapwood. This may be improved somewhat by incising.

**Uses:** Flooring, furniture, cabinetwork, interior trim, tool handles, decorative veneers, boat building. For some applications suggested as a substitute for ash and oak.

**Additional Reading:** (40), (41), (46), (74)
