



## Teak (*Tectona grandis* Linn f.)

The tree is reported to attain a height of 45 m with a clear bole of up to 30 m and a trunk diameter of 1.55 m. Trunks of older trees are fluted and buttressed. The sapwood is easily distinguishable and is pale yellow while the heartwood is generally golden brown, turning dark brown when exposed. Leaves are broadly ovate, 11-55 cm x 6- 37 cm (but much larger on suckers) stellate-floccose.

Scientifically called *Tectona grandis* Linn f., Teak is a unique species and is known as an aristocrat hardwood, being one of the most durable timbers in the world that is used for all conceivable purposes. It is being used for the construction of houses, ships and railway coaches, buildings, furniture, as paneling, joinery, plywood and many other uses. Teakwood is moderately hard and extremely durable; beams that are over 1,000 years old are known to be still functional. Its wood contains essential oil that resists the action of water and prevents the rusting of iron. The heartwood is resistant to termites and is extremely resistant to preservative penetration. The sapwood is



also of low permeability. The demand for this timber is so high that it far exceeds the supply; today, it is one of the most expensive timbers of the world. There is now a growing interest in propagating the species on a large scale for better economic returns.

Teak occurs naturally in Peninsular India, Burma, Thailand and Laos. Due to its inherent resistance to fire, not to mention its high economic importance, it is extensively used as a reforestation species and grown in plantations.

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