



Beilschmiedia tawa

Family: *Lauraceae*

Tawa

Other Common Names: None.

Distribution: New Zealand, native to all parts of North Island and northeast area of South Island; at altitudes from sea level to approximately 1,000 ft.

The Tree: Usually attains a height of 60 to 80 ft, with trunk diameters of 18 in. to 30 in. Boles are clear to 30 ft.

The Wood:

General Characteristics: Pale colored grayish brown wood sometimes with dark brown streaks; no sharp demarcation between sapwood and heartwood. Texture moderately fine; grain usually straight; luster low; without distinctive odor or taste. Silica content of 0.14% is reported.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.58; air-dry density 44 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (2-in. standard)

Moisture content (%)	Bending strength (Psi)	Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)	Maximum crushing strength (Psi)
Green (10)	9,690	1,590	4,390
12%	15,730	2,060	8,370

Janka side hardness 990 lb for green material, 1,405 lb for dry.

Drying and Shrinkage: Kiln- and air-dries readily with little or no degrade. Kiln schedule T6-D2 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T3-D1 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: volumetric 11.4%.

Working Properties: Works satisfactorily with both hand and machine tools; has a moderate blunting effect on cutters; tends to split in nailing. Glues well.

Durability: Heartwood is nondurable; sapwood vulnerable to powder-post beetle attack.

Preservation: Responds well to diffusion treatment as well as pressure-vacuum systems.

Uses: Flooring, joinery, furniture components, plywood, cooperage, turnery, doweling.

Additional Reading: (16), (17), (77)

16. Entrican, A. R., W. C. Ward, and J. S. Reid. 1951. The physical and mechanical properties of the principal indigenous woods of New Zealand. New Zealand Forest Service, Wellington.

17. Farmer, R. H. (Editor). 1972. Handbook of hardwoods. H. M. Stationery Office, London.

77. United Kingdom: Wood. 1954. Specimen woods No. 218. Tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*). Suppl. to Wood 1 9(2):87-88.

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