



***Acacia mollissima* syn. *A. mearnsii***

**Family: Leguminosae**

**Black Wattle**

**Other Common Names:** None.

**Distribution:** Native to Australia but extensively planted in East and South Africa and elsewhere.

**The Tree:** A small tree 20 to 50 ft high.

**The Wood:**

**General Characteristics:** Heartwood pale brown with a pinkish tinge; not sharply demarcated from the sapwood. Grain commonly interlocked; luster medium; texture moderately fine and uniform; without distinctive odor or taste.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (overdry weight/green volume) 0.60; air-dry density 45 pcf.

**Mechanical Properties:** (2-cm standard)

Moisture content (%)	Bending strength (Psi)	Modulus of elasticity (1,000 psi)	Maximum crushing strength (Psi)
Green (35)	11,550	1,620	5,170
12%	17,500	2,080	8,800

Janka side hardness 1,280 lb for green material and 1,750 lb at 12% moisture content.

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Dries rapidly but with pronounced warp, particularly cupping. Shakes tend to open and knots to split slightly. Kiln schedule T2-D4 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T2-D3 for 8/4. No data on shrinkage available but reported to have a large movement.

**Working Properties:** No data available on machining characteristics but tests in Australia indicate its suitability for cutting into veneer.

**Durability:** Heartwood nondurable; sapwood vulnerable to *Lyctus* beetle attack.

**Preservation:** Reported to be moderately resistant to preservative treatments.

**Uses:** Mining props, flooring parquet and strips, hardboard. Mainly cultivated for the rich tannin content of the bark, reaching 40 to 50%.

**Additional Reading:** (17), (35)

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

35. Lavers, G. M. 1967. The strength properties of timbers. For. Prod. Res. Bull. No. 50. H. M. Stationery Office. London.

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