



## SAPELE

*Entandrophragma cylindricum*



**Source:** Select harvested through sustainable forestry

**Region:** Tropical Africa

**Grain/Texture:** Quarter sawn boards have a ribbon pattern. Sapele is also known for a wide variety of figured grain patterns; pommele, quilted, mottled, wavy, beeswing, and fiddleback. The grain is interlocked with a fine uniform texture and natural luster.

**Color:** Heartwood is a medium to dark reddish brown or purplish brown. Color tends to darken with age.

**Qualities:** A dense wood. Heartwood ranges from moderately durable to very durable in regard to decay resistance. Sapele is susceptible to insect attack.

**Uses:** Veneer, plywood, furniture, cabinetry, flooring, boatbuilding, musical instruments and turned objects. It is used as a substitute for Genuine Mahogany.

**Sustainability Info:** Popularity has taken its toll and Western Africa is recovering from unregulated harvesting. Some areas now grow Sapele in plantations. Awareness has led to strict controls, certifications and responsible harvesting.

**Interesting Facts:** Cadillac uses Sapele for the interior wood trim on their vehicles.