

# Exotic Woods



## Goncalo Alves

Also known as **Tigerwood**, is typically found from Mexico south into Brazil. Its' medium reddish brown colour, often with dark streaks and colouring similar to Rosewood, usually darkens with age. The grain is usually wavy or interlocking with a good natural luster. It is generally easy to work with and sharp tooling is recommended. Some of its uses include furniture, turnings, cabinetry and specialty objects.



## Ipe or Brazilian Walnut

Generally found in Central and South America. With a reddish to dark brown colour it is very durable and rot resistant. Being very heavy, hard and dense it can be difficult to work with. In our area it has been used as decking and lasts much longer and wears well in comparison to common pressure treated lumber. A deck made of Ipe will likely be the last you will need.



## Jatoba

Also known as **Brazilian Cherry**. It is typically found from southern Mexico up into the southern United States. It can be found in a light orange brown colour to a darker reddish brown colour. This species is very durable and rot resistant. While it glues, finishes and bends well, as it is dense and hard it can be difficult to work with. Some of its uses include flooring, furniture, cabinets, handles and in turnings.



## Lacewood

Lightweight exotic hardwood which comes from the Caribbean. It works the best with very sharp tooling and features a straight fine grain pattern. The grain has a flecking nature to it giving it the distinctive patterns best found in quarter sawn logs. With a straight and fine grain Lacewood adds a great accent to any project. It is fairly easy to work with taking gluing, staining and finishing well. It also turns easily. Some of its' uses include furniture, fine furniture and turned objects such as bowls.



## African Padauk

Typically found in central and tropical Africa. With colours ranging from pale pinkish orange to deep reddish brown which typically darken with age, Padauk has a coarse grain and good natural luster. Padauk works, turns, glues and finishes well. With excellent rot some of its' uses include furniture, flooring, instruments, turned objects and specialty items.



## Purpleheart

Typically found in Central and South America. Popular for its' deep colour this is a dense and durable species with a medium texture and good natural luster. Strong and durable, Purpleheart is a popular choice when colour or accents are desired in a piece. Some of its' uses include furniture, boatbuilding, flooring and inlay applications.



## Sapele

Typically found in tropical Africa. With even tones and good natural luster, the colour is generally reddish brown which darkens with age and has a "cedar" like smell when being worked. Sapele has a slight blunting effect on cutters but glues, turns and finishes well. Some of its' uses are furniture, turned objects, boatbuilding, instruments and small specialty items.



## Wenge

Native to central Africa. With medium brown to colour it has a straight grain and coarse texture it has low natural luster. This species is very durable and rot and insect repellent. Being somewhat difficult to work with a splintery nature. Some of its' uses include furniture, turned objects and instruments.



## Chechen (Caribbean Rosewood)

Scientific name: *Metopium brownei*. Caribbean Rosewood or Chechen as it is not really a true rosewood, but is called so because of its density, color and luster. The wood comes from Cuba, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Belize and some parts of Mexico. It has a varying heartwood color with red, orange and blackish brown.



## White Limba

Wood with such darker figuring is referred to as Black Limba, while plain unfigured wood is called White Limba. Sapwood is a pale greyish to yellowish brown, not clearly demarcated from the heartwood. Color tends to darken with age. Grain/Texture: Grain is straight to slightly interlocked, with a uniformly coarse texture.



## Black Limba

Black Limba, *Terminalia superba*, is a beautiful west African species that has black stripes in the lower trunk of the tree presumably were the tree disposes of its toxins. Upper sections of the trees have white heartwood and this is called white Limba and is generally sold as a different species on the commercial market.



## **Bubinga or African Rosewood**

Is from the equatorial region of Africa. It has a pinkish red to darker reddish brown tones. It has a straight and at times interlocking grain pattern. Generally easy to work with and turns and finishes well although it can sometimes be hard to glue and bend. Some of its' uses are in furniture or bar tops, boxes and cabinets.



## **Baltic Birch**

Comes from Russia and the Baltic States. Trees from this area have a brighter colour than trees of this species from other areas. It makes an excellent plywood and is often preferred for building cabinets and drawers.



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