



## **AUSTRALIAN BRUSH BOX** *[Tristania conferta]*

Brush box is important tree of the coastal forests of Eastern Australia. A heavy structural timber of plain appearance, resembling turpentine in general character.

Brush Box color varies from pink brown, red brown or gray brown to dark red. It darkens after prolonged exposure. Brown or reddish-brown, turning grey on exposure to the weather, with a fine, even texture and irregularly interlocked grain.

In Australia classification of structural timbers Brush Box is placed in Group B. It has particularly good wearing qualities, withstanding rough usage without splintering. Brush Box is regarded as the best Australian timber for bridge and wharf decking. It is also used for heavy-duty industrial flooring, for the heads of mauls and mallets and for a wide range of structural work. Brush Box is reported to be generally resistant to attack by decay fungi and termites. The wood is reported to be very difficult to saw. They tend to be rather difficult to plane and work with most tools, but can be dressed to a smooth finish.

### Common Uses

- Bearings & bushings
- Domestic flooring
- Heavy construction
- Building construction
- Cabin construction
- Factory construction
- Machinery parts
- Mine timbers
- Wheels

## Numerical Values

Category	Green	Dry	Unit
Bending Strength	1540	998	kg/cm <sup>2</sup>
Stiffness	134	172	1 k kg/cm <sup>2</sup>
Toughness		1400	cm-kg
Weight		994	kg/cm <sup>3</sup>
Radial Shrinkage (G->OD)		5	%
Tangential Shrink (G->OD)		10	%

## Species Distribution

Region : Oceania and S.E. Asia

Countries : Australia  
Hawaii [US]  
Indonesia  
Papua New Guinea

## Sanding

The material is reported to sand easily to yield a smooth finish.

## Polishing

The wood has good polishing characteristics



## Strength Properties

The species is considerably stronger than White Oak or Teak. It has exceptionally high bending strength qualities when air-dried. Maximum crushing strength, or compression parallel to grain, is exceptionally high. It is very hard and very resistant to wear. The wood is exceptionally heavy. It weighs much more than Hard Maple or Teak.

The *Tristania* is reported to produce hard and durable timber that are highly suited for making rice pestles, axe-handles, mallets, golf heads and paddles. The common name **Pelawan**, used to refer to timber from the lowland forests in the Malay Peninsula, is reported to be indicative of the durability of the wood.