



RADIATA PINE

(Pinus radiata)

Radiata pine is native to the central coast of California but is widely planted in Australia and New Zealand. It makes up 28% of Tasmania's timber plantations and is popular in all types of construction and decorative uses. These include framing, lining, glue laminated beams, veneer and plywood. It can be used for many exposed structural and non-structural applications if it is treated with the right preservatives.

The texture of radiata pine is fine, but uneven, and knots are common. The timber is fairly soft and has a low density, often with very wide annual growth rings. The sapwood is white to pale yellow, but often indistinguishable from the heartwood, which is light brown to yellow. The grain is usually straight, apart from a central core of 100mm, which can twist if the moisture content of the timber changes.



BAYSWOOD TIMBER
WHOLESALEERS PTY. LTD

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

COLOUR

Heartwood is reddish-brown varying to shades of yellow. Sapwood is usually pale yellow to white.

DENSITY

Unseasoned: 800KG/m³ Seasoned: 550KG/m³

GRAIN

Generally straight. An often pronounced difference in colour between earlywood and latewood results in a very distinctive figure when backsawn.

STRENGTH

S7 unseasoned; SD6 seasoned.

STRUCTURAL RATINGS

F4, F5, F7 (unseasoned), F5, F7, F8, F11, F14 (seasoned)

HARDNESS (JANKA)

3.3kN (Seasoned) & 2.1kN (Unseasoned)

TERMITE RESISTANCE

Not Resistant

SHRINKAGE TO 12% MC

5.1% (tangential); 3.4% (radial).

DURABILITY ABOVE GROUND

Low – 0 – 5 Years

DURABILITY IN GROUND

Low – 0-5 Years

WORKING PROPERTIES

Radiata pine is easy to work except for the knots, and it nails satisfactorily. Apart from the core, it is easy to dry, and because it dries quickly, it is usually kiln dried directly from being green. During the warmer months it is very susceptible to bluestain. There can be problems with timber that is high in resin content: it can be hard to glue, and knots, resin streaks and latewood can emit enough resin to mar exterior coatings. Timber that is high in resin should be used for structural purposes only. It is not suitable for steam bending as it is hard to obtain a smooth curve. It readily accepts preservatives, which provide protection to Hazard level 6 (the highest level). Radiata pine can be prone to surface checking when exposed uncoated to the weather or when coated only with stain-type finishes, which are less protective against moisture penetration.

USES

Radiata pine can be used in a wide range of applications, including as a domestic and commercial structural timber, flooring, lining, furniture, panels (such as veneer, plywood, particleboard, fibreboard), corestock, brushware, turnery, toys, poles, posts, sleepers, mining timbers (treated), landscaping, pulp and paper.

