



SILVERTOP ASH

(Eucalyptus sieberi)

Silvertop ash is a large, moderately durable Australian hardwood that grows in the southern and central coast and tablelands of New South Wales, eastern Victoria and north eastern Tasmania. It is also known as 'coast ash' due to its occurrence along the coastal areas of the cooler eastern states. Of medium texture, silvertop ash has an interlocked grain and with noticeable growth rings. The heartwood is brown, sometimes pinkish and the sapwood is narrow in appearance. Gum veins, markings from pinhole borers and pencil streaks also distinguish the appearance of silvertop ash. Care needs to be taken when drying silvertop ash, because of its proneness to surface checking on the tangential surface. It is also slow to dry. Silvertop ash provides good fire resistance, and is one of seven hardwood timber species that was found to be suitable by the Building Commission in Victoria for home construction in bushfire areas (provided it has a thickness greater than 18 mm).



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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

COLOUR

Heartwood pale brown, sometimes with a tinge of pink; sapwood narrow and indistinguishable. Pin hole borer discolouration common.

DENSITY

Unseasoned: 1100KG/m³ Seasoned: 850KG/m³

GRAIN

Grain often interlocked, medium texture.

STRENGTH

S3 unseasoned; SD3 seasoned.

STRUCTURAL RATINGS

F8, F11, F14, F17 (unseasoned), F14, F17, F22, F27 (seasoned)

HARDNESS (JANKA)

9.7kN (Seasoned) & 6.7kN (Unseasoned)

TERMITE RESISTANCE

Not Resistant

SHRINKAGE TO 12% MC

Approximately 10% (tangential); 6% (radial).

DURABILITY ABOVE GROUND

Reasonably High – 15 – 40 Years

DURABILITY IN GROUND

Moderate – 5-15 Years

WORKING PROPERTIES

A tough, moderately durable timber, silvertop ash is reasonably easy to work. It machines well and can be worked with standard woodworking tools. It is easy enough to split along the rays, and it was for this reason that the pioneers used silvertop ash for roof shakes. It accepts most coatings and is excellent for nailing and screwing. Silvertop ash sands well but is inclined to splinter. It is also suitable for steam bending.

USES

Silvertop ash is mainly used as a building timber, such as in timber framing, It is often used for building framework on the south coast and tablelands of NSW. It is strong and reasonably durable, plus it has also been found to provide good fire resistance.

Other common applications include flooring, furniture and high-end joinery. Silvertop ash is also used for vehicle construction, handles, fence posts, cases and chemical pulp.



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www.bayswoodtimber.com.au

T 03 9796 5165 **F** 03 9796 5178

81-87 Star Crescent, Hallam Vic 3803