

MINISTRY OF FORESTRY FOREST DEPARTMENT MYANMAR AND



COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITY (CFC) AND

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGINIZATION (ITTO)

Study on Utilization of Plantation Teak Pre-project CFC/ITTO 73 FT PPD 68/03 Rev.2 (I)

Handbook on Properties of Plantation Teak in Myanmar







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Introduction

Among world teak, Myanmar teak, special and in a class of its own, has become renowned since the mid eighteen century. It has been known to be exceptionally suitable for shipbuilding, veneer. high class furniture & construction works. especially for decorative joinery.

Teak is recognized as one of the most valuable premium woods in the world. Naturally inherited desirable wood characteristics such as lightness and durability, hardness and stability, straight grain and workability, beautiful grain pattern and golden colour, and termite resistant etc, are major attributes to teak to be a versatile timber for various uses

The government is taking measures to introduce the marketoriented economic system in the nation national development. for In the process, in order to contribute towards the development of the private sector as well as the perpetual existence and sustainable development of timber extraction, the Ministry of Forestry is efforts for enabling making the national entrepreneurs to run teak farming by their own.

The oldest teak plantation had been established in Myanmar about in year 1700. Teak plantations established up to 1906 totaled 24,282 ha (Anon, Forest Department 1999). The establishment of teak plantation over an area of 324,000 ha will have been completed at the end of the 40year rotation. At the end of 2008, special teak plantations amounted to 89,100 ha.

In fact. teak plantation in Myanmar has originated with "Taungya" method in modest scales with the compensatory concept since 1856. However the extensive plantation programme has been set since 1978 with an annual target at 80,000 acres of which about 40 percent is for commercial species, mainly teak. In light of farsighted view towards market economy, Myanmar has step up to the emergence of private owned forest plantations. As for teak plantation, a total of 20,500 acres for 11 Companies has been permitted and commenced establishment since 2006. Receiving the growing interests of entrepreneurs to invest in this lucrative business. further thousands of acres are under the process for permission.

In Myanmar, as the earliest large scale teak plantations have not yet reached harvestable size, domestic wood-based industries and timber merchants who have traditionally dealt with large diameter size of natural teak are still lack of experience dealing with small diameter size of plantation teak. General public perception in the domestic market is also that properties of teak wood from plantation grown are inferior to that of natural grown.

Plantation teak could not match old growth teak in terms of market prices. The best quality plantation teak price is lower than even that of the lowest grade old growth Myanmar teak (Keogh, 2008). This is due primarily to high sapwood content and high juvenile wood content in the timber obtained from the trees of young teak plantations. Sapwood content, juvenile wood content and growth rate are some of the basic properties in assessing the wood quality, especially for the timbers obtained from the trees of young forest plantations.

Teak is commonly accepted as one of the most durable wood species in the world. It was recorded that on some dry sites, it had lasted for more than 700 years. In contact with the ground, it can remain serviceable for more than twenty-five years because of the natural preservatives present in the heartwood. The extractives present in the heartwood are believed to be mainly responsible for teak durability.

However, it is without a doubt that the quality of teak extracted from plantation cannot compare with the quality of teak extracted from natural forests. Fast growing and high yielding forest plantations are becoming an important source to increase wood productivity. For fast growing species, a relative short rotation period and the wood quality may be lower than expected. For outdoor construction, variation in durability is still of great importance.

Young teakwood is produced from thinning & final felling at the end

of short rotation. Mature teak wood (to be cut about 60-80 years of age) mainly consist of heartwood, while younger one consist of bigger portion of sapwood. About 10 years old teak trees consists of 70% sapwood, while at 20-30 years of age the wood almost has 50% of heartwood.

Specific gravity of teak wood is lower in young teak. Yudodibroto (1985) reported that specific gravity of teak was as low as 0.48. The mechanical strength of wood will be lower at about 30% on average.

Trees harvested in shorter rotations and thinning trees have higher proportion of juvenile and tension woods, generally characterized by shorter fibers & elements, small diameter and thinner cells with higher fibrile angle.

Some properties of plantation teak of different ages have been done during ITTO/CFC pre-project "Study on utilization of plantation teak" which are basic requirements to the utilization potential of plantation teak.



Plantation Teak Wood Quality 14-Years Old Plantation Teak

General characteristics of the wood

Sapwood and heartwood 57.04 % and 42.96 % consist of respectively; heartwood golden yellow dull, turning pale brown, odour present, strongly and characteristically scented when fresh; growth ring distinct; sapwood 4 rings and average heartwood 6 rings respectively; pores medium-sized, visible to the naked eye.

Microscopic characters

Vessels: Ring porous wood; 6 -16/mm², moderately few to moderately numerous; solitary 73 %, in radial multiple of 2-4 and 27%; solitary pores rounded or oval, mean tangential diameter 124.46 µm (range 35.88medium-252.41µm), fine-texture, sized; mean length 318.78 µm (range 117.88 – 445.88 µm), moderately short; perforation plate sample, end walls transverse or oblique, one end or both end tailed; intervessel pits alternate, 5.31 µm, small, oval or elongated in shape; reddish-brown deposits present; tvloses gum abundant.

Fiber: Medium-sized, mean length 1044.06 μ m (range 461.25-1701.50 μ m); mean fiber width 23.36 μ m (range14.38-32.5 μ m), mean fiber wall thickness 4.36 μ m, (range 2.5-7.19

 μ m), thin-walled; septate; libriform; slit-like.

Rays: Heterogeneous; 3-4 cell wide, (mostly 4); 5-10 /mm tangentially, widely space to fairly close; mean height of multiseriate rays is 585.70 μ m (range 102.39-1601.56 μ m), very low,; mean width 35.92 μ m (range 17.94-55.09 μ m), moderately fine, and 5-72 cells high; ray vessel pitting 3.63 μ m in diameter, small, oval or rounded or elliptical in shape.

Axial parenchyma: Abundant, paratracheal parenchyma connecting vessel pores forming

5-11 seriate bands, initial and confluent.



Transverse section



Tangential section



Radial section

Qualitative characters

Growth rings	Distinct
Colour	Pale golden brown to dark golden brown
Luster	Dull
Grain	Straight or interlock grained
Texture	Fine to coarse textured
Odour	Distinct
Porosity	Ring porous

Quantitative characters

Vessel No/mm ²		6-16
Vessel diame	ter	124.46
Vessel length	L	318.78
Fiber length		1044.06
Fiber width		23.36
Fiberwall thickness	4.36	
Lumen width	L	14.38
Multiseriate height	ray	585.70
Multiseriate width	ray	35.92
Multiseriate high	ray	5-72
Ray/mm tangentially		5-10







Some Physical Properties

Moisture content%

	Green	Air Dry
Base	97.2	12.0
Middle	93.6	12.0
Тор	85.7	12.0
Average	92.2	12.0

Shrinkage (Green to Oven Dry)

	Longitudinal %	Radial %	Tangential %	Volumetric %
Base	0.368	2.15	4.98	7.48
Middle	0.274	2.32	5.19	7.47
Тор	0.259	2.42	5.38	7.39
Average	0.300	2.3	5.2	7.45

Specific gravity

	Green	Air Dry
Base	0.535	0.585
Middle	0.507	0.552
Тор	0.513	0.559
Average	0.518	0.565

Dimensional	stability
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Base	2.33
Middle	1.88
Тор	1.76
Average	1.99

Density (Kg/m³)

	Green	Air Dry
Base	1056	655
Middle	978	618
Тор	951	615
Average	995	629







Some mechanical properties

Static bending (Nmm⁻²)

MOR	95	Initial Chec
MOE	9578	Deformation
FS@PL	58	Internal Ch

Axial compression (Nmm⁻²)

MCS	44	Final DBT (°C
FS@PL 36	36	Initial moist
	00	content %

Side compression (Nmm⁻²)

12

FS@PL

Hardness (kN)

Side	1.5
End	2.9

Natural Durability

Average M	52.56	
Average lost%	weight	5.642
Durability	2	
Descriptio Durability	on of	Durable

Air Drying

Quick Drying Test

Initial Check	1
Deformation	1
Internal Check	1
Initial DBT (°C)	60
Initial WBD ($^{\circ}$ C)	5
Final DBT (°C)	85
Initial moisture content %	86.9
Estimated Drying Time (days)	3-4
Schedule Code	D444/W44





Ash content%

Alcohol/ Benzene Soluble %

	Heart	Sap
Base	2.167	2.783
Middle	1.581	2.279
Тор	1.385	1.958
Average	1.711	2.340

	Heart	Sap
Base	10.736	7.861
Middle	9.047	7.004
Тор	8.568	6.913
Average	9.450	7.259

Hot Water Soluble %

Lignin Content %

	Heart	Sap			Heart	Sap
Base	5.706	6.907	Ba	lse	27.800	25.980
Middle	5.767	6.644	Mi	ddle	28.480	26.720
Тор	5.668	6.247	Toj	р	29.280	27.340
Average	5.714	6.699	Ave	erage	28.520	26.680

1% NaOH Soluble %

Cellulose Content %

	Heart	Sap		Heart	Sap
Base	13.528	12.397	Base	47.901	47.989
Middle	13.141	11.765	Middle	48.232	48.154
Тор	13.064	11.700	Тор	49.044	48.227
Average	13.244	11.954	Average	48.392	48.123

20-Years Old Plantation Teak General characteristics of the wood

Sapwood and heartwood consist of 65.02 % and 34.98 %; heartwood golden yellow turning reddish- brown, dull, odour present, characteristically strongly and scented when fresh; growth ring distinct, sapwood 7 rings and heartwood 10 average rings respectively; pores medium-sized, visible to the naked eye.

Microscopic characters

Vessels: Ring porous wood; 4-14 $/mm^2$, few to moderately numerous; solitary 72 %, in radial multiple of 2-5and 28%; solitary pores rounded or oval, mean tangential diameter 161.10 µm (range 33.31-353.63 μm), medium-textured, medium-sized: mean length 336.51µm 140.94-(range 494.56µm), moderately short: perforation plate sample, end walls oblique or transverse, one end or both end tailed, intervessel pits alternate, 3.13µm, small, rounded oval: reddish-brown or gum deposits present; tyloses present,

Fiber: Medium-sized, mean length 1086.60 μ m (range 458.69-1447.81 μ m); mean fiber width 14.68 μ m (range 16.25-34.56 μ m), mean fiber wall thickness 4.38 μ m, (range 2.5-7.5 μ m), thin –walled; septate; libriform; slit-like. Wavy fibers and

helical thickening were found in 20year-old plantation teak.

Rays: Heterogeneous, 3-4 cell wide, (mostly 4), 3-7/mm tangentially, widely spaced to normally spaced, mean height of multiseriate rays is 484.06 μ m (range 110.19-1091.63 μ m), extremely low, mean width 50.13 μ m (range 25.63-72.77 μ m), mediumsized, and 5-44 cells high, ray vessel pitting 3.75 μ m in diameter, oval or rounded in shape.

Axial parenchyma:Abundant,paratrachealparenchymaconnecting vessel pores forming 3-9seriate bands, initial and confluent.



Transverse section



Tangential section



Radial section

Qualitative characters

Growth rings	Distinct
Colour	Pale golden brown to dark golden brown
Luster	Dull
Grain	Straight or interlock grained
Texture	Medium to coarse textured
Odour	Distinct
Porosity	Ring porous

Quantitative characters

Vessel No/m	4-14	
Vessel diame	ter	161.10
Vessel length	L	336.51
Fiber length		1086.60
Fiber width		24.68
Fiberwall thickness		4.38
Lumen width	15.96	
Multiseriate height	ray	484.06
Multiseriate width	ray	50.13
Multiseriate high	ray	5-44
Ray/mm tangentially	3-7	







Some Physical Properties

Moisture content%

Shrinkage (Green to Oven Dry)

	Green	Air Dry
Base	91.0	12.0
Middle	101.3	12.0
Тор	92.9	12.0
Average	95.3	12.0

	Longitudinal %	Radial %	Tangential %	Volumetric %
Base	0.335	2.5	5.0	8.17
Middle	0.213	2.60	5.10	7.86
Тор	0.229	2.99	5.63	7.29
Average	0.259	2.7	5.2	7.77

Specific gravity

	Green	Air Dry
Base	0.625	0.694
Middle	0.568	0.689
Тор	0.581	0.640
Average	0.591	0.674

Dimensional stability

Base	1.99
Middle	1.96
Тор	1.93
Average	1.96

Density (Kg/m³)

	Green	Air Dry
Base	1199	778
Middle	1147	699
Тор	1123	717
Average	1156	731



Some mechanical properties Air Drying

Static bending (Nmm⁻²)

MOR	103
MOE	10484
FS@PL	61

Axial compression (Nmm⁻²)

MCS	48
FS@PL	40

Side compression (Nmm⁻²)

13

FS@PL

Hardness (kN)

Side	1.55
End	2.9

Natural Durability

Average MC%	86.49
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Average weight 5.301 lost%

Durability class 2

Description of Durable Durability

Quick Drying Test

Initial Check	1
Deformation	1
Internal Check	2
Initial DBT (°C)	60
Initial WBD ($^{\circ}$ C)	5
Final DBT (°C)	85
Initial moisture content %	100.20
Estimated Drying Time (days)	7-8
Schedule Code	D_{44}/W_{45}





Chemical Properties

Ash content%

Alcohol/ Benzene Soluble %

	Heart	Sap
Base	3.449	3.262
Middle	2.941	2.923
Тор	2.584	2.480
Average	2.991	2.888

	Heart	Sap
Base	17.564	14.247
Middle	16.350	13.031
Тор	15.964	12.876
Average	16.959	13.385

Hot Water Soluble %

Lignin Content %

	Heart	Sap		Heart	Sap
Base	6.504	6.544	Base	31.240	29.080
Middle	6.439	6.136	Middle	32.780	30.540
Тор	6.174	5.796	Тор	32.880	30.880
Average	6.372	6.159	Average	32.300	30.167

1% NaOH Soluble %

Cellulose Content %

	Heart	Sap		Heart
Base	16.669	14.721	Base	49.127
Middle	16.225	14.014	Middle	49.102
Тор	15.855	13.660	Тор	49.773
Average	16.250	14.132	Average	49.334

Sap

49.511

49.763

50.280

49.851

25-year- old plantation Teak

General characteristics of the wood

Sapwood and heartwood consist of 43.95 % and 56.05 % heartwood respectively; dark reddishbrown, stripe black present, dull. odour present, characteristically strongly and scented when fresh; growth ring distinct; sapwood 8 rings and heartwood 12 rings average respectively; pores medium-sized, visible to the naked eye.

Microscopic characters

Vessels: Ring porous wood; 5-14 /mm², moderately few to moderately numerous; solitary 79 %, in radial multiple of 2-5 and 21%; solitary pores rounded or oval, mean tangential diameter 145.64 µm (range 30.75-307.50 µm), finetextured, medium-sized: mean length 243.03 (range 84.56-386µm), very short; perforation plate sample, end walls oblique or transverse, one end or both end tailed; intervessel pits alternate, 4.69 µm, small, rounded in shaped; reddish -brown deposits gum present; tyloses present.

Fiber: Medium-sized, mean length 919.49 μ m (range 438.19-1449.69 μ m); mean fiber width 23.89 μ m (range 15.63-32.50 μ m), mean fiber wall thickness 4.20 μ m(range 2.5-

6.25 μm), thin- walled; septate; libriform; slit-like.

Rays: Heterogeneous; 2-4 cell wide, (mostly 3- 4), 4-8 /mm tangentially, widely spaced to normally spaced; mean height of multiseriate rays is 543.62 μ m (range 123-1224.88 μ m), very low; mean width 39.88 μ m (range 19.22-60.22 μ m), moderately fine, and 6-56 cells high, ray vessel pitting 4.06 μ m in diameter, small, rounded or oval in shape.

Axial parenchyma:Abundant,paratrachealparenchymaconnecting vessel pores forming 3-7seriate bands, initial and confluent



Transverse section

Tangential section



Radial section

Qualitative characters

Growth rings	Distinct
Colour	Pale golden brown to dark golden brown
Luster	Dull
Grain	Straight or interlock grained
Texture	Fine to coarse textured
Odour	Distinct
Porosity	Ring porous

Quantitative characters

Vessel No/m	5-14	
Vessel diame	ter	145.64
Vessel length	L	243.01
Fiber length		919.49
Fiber width		23.89
Fiberwall thickness	4.20	
Lumen width		15.09
Multiseriate height	ray	543.62
Multiseriate width	ray	39.88
Multiseriate high	ray	6-56
Ray/mm tangentially	4-8	







Some Physical Properties Shrinkage (Green to Oven Dry)

Moisture content%

	Green	Air Dry
Base	71.2	12.0
Middle	63.4	12.0
Тор	50.0	12.0
Average	61.5	12.0

	Longitudinal %	Radial %	Tangential %	Volumetric %
Base	0.280	2.40	4.40	7.00
Middle	0.240	2.70	5.20	7.29
Тор	0.250	3.00	5.30	8.64
Average	0.257	2.7	5.0	7.64

Specific gravity

	Green	Air Dry	Di
Base	0.604	0.671	Ba
Middle	0.574	0.633	Mi
Тор	0.557	0.612	То
Average	0.578	0.639	Av

imensional stability

Base	1.83
Middle	1.93
Тор	1.76
Average	1.84

Density (Kg/m³)

	Green	Air Dry
Base	1036	752
Middle	936	708
Тор	885	686
Average	952	715



Some mechanical properties

Static bending (Nmm⁻²)

MOR	111	Initial Check
MOE	11272	Deformation
FS@PL	69	Internal Check

Axial compression (Nmm⁻²)

MCS	51
FS@PL	43

Side compression (Nmm⁻²)

FS@PL 13

Hardness (kN)

Side	1.85
End	3.3

Natural Durability

Average MC%		37.97
Average lost%	weight	5.947
Durability class		2
D : + :	an af	Dunchle

Description of Durable Durability

Air Drying

Quick Drying Test

Initial Check	1
Deformation	1
Internal Check	1
Initial DBT (°C)	60
Initial WBD (°C)	5
Final DBT (°C)	85
Initial moisture content %	88.30
Estimated Drying Time (days)	3-4
Schedule Code	D44/W44





Chemical Properties

Ash content%

Alcohol/ Benzene Soluble %

	Heart	Sap
Base	1.748	2.097
Middle	1.552	2.070
Тор	1.462	2.055
Average	1.587	2.074

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	Heart	Sap
Base	12.287	8.450
Middle	9.848	7.966
Тор	9.352	7.860
Average	10.496	8.092

Hot Water Soluble %

	Heart	Sap
Base	6.780	7.284
Middle	6.760	7.176
Тор	6.724	6.415
Average	6.755	6.958

Lignin Content %

	Heart	Sap
Base	27.820	26.900
Middle	28.480	26.960
Тор	30.160	27.220
Average	28.820	27.027

1% NaOH Soluble %

	Heart	Sap
Base	14.966	13.808
Middle	14.792	13.414
Тор	14.294	13.223
Average	14.684	13.482

Cellulose Content %

	Heart	Sap
Base	51.452	51.982
Middle	51.829	51.995
Тор	52.031	52.438
Average	51.771	52.138

30-year- old plantation Teak General characteristics of the wood

and Sapwood heartwood consist of 24.04 % and 75.96 % respectively, sapwood pale yellow, heartwood dark golden- brown, dull, odour present, strongly and characteristically scented when growth distinct. fresh; ring sapwood 10 rings and average heartwood 16 rings respectively; pores medium-sized, visible to the naked eye.

Microscopic characters

Vessels: Ring porous wood, 4-18 /mm², few to moderately numerous, solitary 73 %, in

radial multiple of 2-5 and 27 %; solitary pore rounded , mean tangential diameter 146.01 μm (range

33.31-302.38µm), fine-textured, medium-sized, mean length 125.56 294.38µm (range _ 356.26µm), moderately short: perforation plate sample, end walls oblique or transverse, one end or both end tailed, intervessel pits alternate, 5 µm, small, rounded or oval in shape; reddish -brown gum deposits present; tyloses present.

Fiber: Medium-sized, mean length 1069.02μm (range 604.75 -1517μm), mean fiber width 23.33μm (range 16.25-31.25 μm), mean fiber wall thickness 4.01μ m(range $2.5-5.62 \mu$ m), thinwalled, septate, libriform, slit-like.

Rays: Heterogeneous, 2-5 cell wide, (mostly 3), 4-9 /mm tangentially, widely spaced to fairly close, mean height of multiseriate rays is 568.98 μ m (range 123-1224.88 μ m), very low, mean width 45.97 μ m (range 20.5-69.19 μ m), medium-sized, and 6-66 cells high, ray vessel pitting 5 μ m in diameter, rounded or oval in shape.

Axial parenchyma:Abundant,paratrachealparenchymaconnecting vessel pores forming 3-9seriate bands, initial and confluent



Transverse section



Tangential section



Radial section

Qualitative characters

Growth rings	Distinct
Colour	Pale golden brown to dark golden brown
Luster	Dull
Grain	Straight or interlock grained
Texture	Fine to coarse textured
Odour	Distinct
Porosity	Ring porous

Quantitative characters

Vessel No/mm ²		4-18
Vessel diameter		146.01
Vessel length		294.38
Fiber length		1069.02
Fiber width		23.33
Fiberwall thickness		4.01
Lumen width		15.12
Multiseriate height	ray	568.98
Multiseriate width	ray	45.97
Multiseriate high	ray	6-66
Ray/mm tangentially		4-9







Some Physical Properties

Shrinkage (Green to Oven Dry)

Moisture content%

	Green	Air Dry
Base	82.0	12.0
Middle	79.4	12.0
Тор	72.7	12.0
Average	78.2	12.0

	Longitudinal %	Radial %	Tangential %	Volumetric %
Base	0.280	2.50	5.70	7.71
Middle	0.206	2.60	5.62	7.57
Тор	0.209	2.86	5.56	8.07
Average	o.232	2.7	5.6	7.78

Specific gravity

	Green	Air Dry
Base	0.565	0.621
Middle	0.537	0.588
Тор	0.530	0.579
Average	0.544	0.596

Dimensional stability

Base	2.30
Middle	2.16
Тор	1.94
Average	2.13

Density (Kg/m³)

	Green	Air Dry
Base	1025	696
Middle	957	659
Тор	909	649
Average	964	668



Some mechanical properties

Static bending (Nmm⁻²)

MOR	93	Initial Check	
MOE	10241	Deformation	
FS@PL	57	Internal Check	

Axial compression (Nmm⁻²)

MCS	43
FS@PL	37

Side compression (Nmm⁻²)

10

FS@PL

Hardness (kN)

Side	1.25
End	2.6

Natural Durability

Average	MC%	28.52	2
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Average weight 2.351 lost%

Durability class 1

Description of Very Durable Durability

Air Drying

Quick Drying Test

Initial Check	1
Deformation	1
Internal Check	1
Initial DBT (°C)	70
Initial WBD (°C)	5
Final DBT (°C)	90
Initial moisture content %	67.10
Estimated Drying Time (days)	4-5

Schedule Code D_{53}/W_{43}





Chemical Properties

Ash content%

Alcohol/ Benzene Soluble %

	Heart	Sap
Base	1.484	2.188
Middle	0.963	1.581
Тор	1.061	1.334
Average	1.145	1.701

	Heart	Sap
Base	13.641	9.379
Middle	13.652	9.189
Тор	14.211	9.711
Average	13.835	9.427

Hot Water Soluble %

Lignin Content %

	Heart	Sap
Base	6.272	6.300
Middle	6.143	6.068
Тор	6.198	6.194
Average	6.204	6.187

	Heart	Sap
Base	34.56	31.78
Middle	36.84	34.48
Тор	39.22	35.56
Average	36.873	33.940

1% NaOH Soluble %

Cellulose Content %

	Heart	Sap
Base	14.110	12.975
Middle	13.630	11.678
Тор	13.694	11.399
Average	13.811	12.351

	Heart	Sap
Base	51.008	50.200
Middle	52.043	50.891
Тор	52.596	51.805
Average	51.882	50.969

















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