

Teak

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Teak (*Tectona*), also called jati, is a genus of tropical hardwood trees in the family Verbenaceae, native to the south and southeast of Asia, and is commonly found as a component of monsoon forest vegetation. They are large trees, growing to 30-40 m tall, deciduous in the dry season. The word teak originated from the Malayalam word *tēkku* [1]. References to this word have been found in ancient Tamil literature; most notably, Agananooru, song 143 verse 5, and Perumpanatrupadai, song 104.

There are three species:

- ***Tectona grandis* (Common Teak)** is by far the most important, with a wide distribution in **India** and **Indo-China**.
- ***Tectona hamiltoniana* (Dahat Teak)** is a local **endemic** species confined to **Myanmar**, where it is **endangered**.
- ***Tectona philippinensis* (Philippine Teak)** is **endemic** to the **Philippines**, and is also endangered.

Cultivation and uses

The timber is used in the manufacture of outdoor furniture, boat decks, and other articles where weather resistance is desired. It is also used for indoor flooring and as a veneer for indoor furnishings.

Teak is easily worked and has natural oils that make it suitable for use in exposed locations, where it is durable even when not treated with oil or varnish. Teak cut from old trees grown slowly in natural forests is more durable and harder; teak from young trees grown in plantations is more prone to splitting and water damage.

Teak is used extensively in India to make doors and window frames, furniture and columns and beams in old type houses. It is very resistant to the attack of termites. The mature teak fetches a very good price. The age of the tree can be assessed from the annular rings formed every year inside the trunk. Teak is grown extensively by forest departments of different states in forest areas.

Its popularity has led to growth in sustainable production throughout the seasonally dry tropics in forestry plantations. Teak does not grow in the rainforest and its consumption encompasses a different set of environmental concerns, such as the disappearance of rare old-growth teak. Experiments are on to arrive at vegetative propagation from one year old stem cuttings.

Popular in the 1950s and 1960s in a style often known as *Danish modern*, teak furniture has had a second boom in popularity. Teak is one of the most sought-after types of vintage furniture.

Teak is used as a food plant by the larvae of moths of the genus *Endoclyta* including *E. aroura*, *E. chalybeatus*, *E. damor*, *E. gmelina*, *E. malabaricus*, *E. sericeus* and *E. signifier* and other Lepidoptera including Turnip Moth.

Much of the world's teak is exported by **Indonesia** and **Myanmar**.