

Wongai plum

Species¹ or Product



PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

Decking

T&G Flooring UNCOATED

T&G Flooring PREFINISHED²

The wongai (pronounced wong-eye) plum is a common tree of islands and coastal plant communities of Cape York & some parts of South-East Asia. The trees can reach heights of up to 20 metres. The tops of the leaves are a dusty green and appear silver underneath.

The plant produces a milky white sap but the fruit is edible - one of the few exceptions to the rule stating plants with white sap should never be eaten. The fruit are egg-shaped, about the size of the last joint in your thumb and turn bright red when ripe. They need to be stored for several days to allow the latex to be broken down. When ripe, the fruit darken and become soft. When fully ripe, the Wongai Plum tastes almost exactly the same as the commercial date.

This tree is famous on Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands where it is considered a delicacy. Its popularity is evident from the Wongai Hotel on Horn Island and the Wongai Sporting Complex on Thursday Island. On Thursday Island (TI) there is a legend which states that whoever eats the fruit of the Wongai tree on TI is destined to return. August to September is considered wongai season.

Information provided is based on sample test averages and there will be variation from piece to piece.

Hardness (Janka Test)	12.64kN	Density (@12%mc)	1135 kg/m³
Modulus of Rupture	164Mpa	Modulus of Elasticity	21,200Mpa
Shrinkage (green to 12%mc)	2.5% radial & 6.7% tangential	Durability Class 1	(40+ years above ground use)
Scientific Name ^[1]	Manilkara kauki & other manilkara spp.	(Formerly Mimusops brownii) Family Sapotaceae	
² Moisture Content	9% to 12%		

² Suitable for relative humidity from 30% to 60%. See our document "[Moisture Management](#)" for more information.

FIRE RESISTANCE DATA: For **critical design** information see our document "[FIRE HAZARD REQUIREMENTS FOR TIMBER FLOORING](#)"
CRITICAL RADIANT FLUX Greater than 4.5kW/m² Smoke Development Rate less than 750%-min

Information provided is subject to change without notice. Please check for the most up to date documents from; www.briggs.com.au

06-Apr-09

Reference • Low, T., "Wild Food Plants of Australia" 1988. ISBN 0-207-16930-6

- <http://www.underutilized-species.org/Documents/PUBLICATIONS/wongi.pdf>
- "Commercial timbers" H. G. Richter and M. J. Dallwitz
- Plant Resources of South-East Asia (PROSEA) P.C.M. Jansen and others, 1991 Basic list of species and commodity grouping ISBN 90 220 1055 4 and other volumes. Pudoc Wageningen the Netherlands.
- "Wongai an Australian fruit" Roger Goebel 1990 Rare fruit council of Australia inc. newsletter 63 July 1990