

TIMBERS WE USE

At Bribie Woodies, we source as much locally available timber for slabbing and seasoning as we can store within our complex. The most common timbers available to us are (Southern) Silky Oak, Bribie Island Pine (Coastal Cypress), Camphor Laurel, various Pines, Mango and Jacaranda. We do obtain other timbers in small quantities but those listed above are the most available. Below is some detailed information on some of the timbers we collect and use. To access each website article, position the cursor on the required article, right click your mouse and then in the dropdown box left click on "Open Hyperlink".

- SOUTHERN SILKY OAK (*Grevillea robusta*) is thought to be native to Australia but now can be found in many countries both North and South of the equator. At Bribie Woodies, our Silky Oak seems to be used mainly for furniture although it does turn nicely. The main reason for its availability is that it is often planted in urban and suburban areas where, after 20 to 30 years, it outgrows its usefulness and becomes more of a nuisance. The tree is often referred to as just Silky Oak, however, it should not be confused with Northern Silky Oak (*Cardwellia sublimis*) which is a different tree in appearance, although the wood is somewhat similar.

For more information on Southern Silky Oak access the websites below.

- [Agro Forestry](#)
 - [The Wood Data Base](#)
 - [Images of Southern Silky Oak](#)
 - [Wikipedia - Grevillea robusta](#)
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- BRIBIE ISLAND PINE (*Callitris columellaris*) is found in many coastal locations around Eastern Australia although it is most common between Coffs Harbour in northern NSW and Hervey Bay in QLD. It is actually a Cypress and has many common names and include Coast Cypress, Coastal Cypress, Cypress Pine, Dune Cypress, Murray Pine, Northern Cypress Pine, Sand Cypress, Western Cypress and White Cypress Pine. It is a very dense timber and holds moisture for a long time after it has been cut. The seasoning process can take many years and there is about 10% to 20% loss due to surface cracking during this period. When machined, the surface is beautifully textured and very smooth. It is used extensively in wood turning, carving and the making of craft items. So long as the timber has been fully seasoned, it makes beautiful furniture. The timber is easy to work and finish.

For more information on Bribie Island Pine access the websites below.

- [Images of Bribie Island Pine](#)
- [Wikipedia - Callitris columellaris](#)
- [Forest Legality Alliance](#)
- [The Gymnosperm Database](#)

- CAMPHOR LAUREL (*Cinnamomum virens*) is not a native to Australia, having been introduced from Asia in 1822 as an ornamental tree. The timber is extremely popular in craft work due to its beautiful colour, figure and aromatic nature. It is also popular with cabinetmakers for drawer bases and the like due to its insect repellent properties. The tree itself is a large evergreen tree that grows up to 30m tall. Camphor is a white, crystalline substance obtained from the tree. It is native to Taiwan, Japan, China and Indochina, where it is also cultivated for camphor and timber production. It has since become a weed throughout Queensland and Central to Northern NSW. It is used by woodworkers for turning and crafting furniture. Formerly it was used to construct camphorwood chests. Camphor has been used for many centuries as a culinary spice, a component of incense, and as a medicine.

For more information on Camphor Laurel access the websites below.

- Queensland Government - Camphor Laurel
 - Salvaged Timber - from Urban & Rural Sources
 - Images of (mostly) Camphor Laurel
 - Wikipedia - *Cinnamomum camphora*
- JACARANDA (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) is not a native to Australia, having been introduced from the high plains of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. This fast-growing, deciduous tree can reach 15m in height with a spread of up to 15m and has a broad, rounded crown. There are around 50 species of the Jacarandas the most common one found in Australia being the *Jacaranda mimosifolia*. All species have fern-like leaves and bell-shaped flowers which may be white, purple or mauve-blue.

Jacaranda is a most popular timber, very much sought after by woodworkers and craft people. The seasoned timber is blond in colour with a fine grain. It is a beautiful timber to turn and carve, it glues well and is very popular with pyrographers, particularly due to its colour and close grain. Unfortunately, if the Jacaranda timber is exposed to ultra violet light, it does yellow and/or darken over time if not finished with an ultra violet clear coating.

For more information on Jacaranda access the websites below.

- Wikipedia - *Jacaranda mimosifolia*
- A Jacaranda Forum which is interesting reading.
- Lumberjocks - Seasoning Jacaranda before use
- Images of (mostly) Jacaranda