
Cumaru – Expectations, Grading Rules and Definitions

NOT ALL WOOD IS CREATED EQUAL An informed consumer makes the best customer and an educated customer is good for business. It's really very simple. Customers have the right to select the quality of the products they desire and that they are entitled to receive what they specify. When tropical hardwoods are specified or purchased without clearly defining grade expectations, there is no assurance of the quality and consistency of the product delivered and no accountability standard set for a vendor. And since grade affects price, what looks like a good deal on paper might not look nearly as good on your project.

THE STANDARDS In the absence of industry established and defined quality control standards for tropical hardwood decking and lumber, the following rules have been established to reflect Best Practices.

This guide was created to assist specifiers and end users in determining grade expectations and value requirements as well as to understand some of the common grade names that might be encountered in the market. We strongly encourage specifiers and consumers to utilize these standards in their decision making process and to specifically reference these standards in their quote requests and purchase orders.

GRADE - EXPECTATIONS As with most natural wood products, tropical hardwoods possess natural "Appearance Characteristics" that add to their unique beauty. Those that are appreciated include color variation and distinctive grain patterns. Other characteristics in all types of lumber that develop naturally or through manufacturing are known as "Physical Characteristics", "Sound Defects", "Unsound Defects" and "Milling Defects". The following is a summary of the typical characteristics one might find in a wood grade specification.

Appearance Characteristics

- 1) Mixed grain
- 2) Molder knife marks

Milling Defects

- 1) Skip
- 2) Torn grain
- 3) Chipped grain
- 4) Non compliant profiling

Physical Characteristics

- 1) Bow
- 2) Crook
- 3) Cup
- 4) Twist
- 5) Raised grain

Sound Defects

- 1) Pin holes
- 2) Sound knots
- 3) Color variation
- 4) Drying checks
- 5) Birdseye
- 6) Pin knots
- 7) Maculas (Birds Eye)
- 8) Discoloration
- 9) Sticker marks
- 10) Water stain
- 11) Reverse/Roey Grain

Unsound Defects

- 1) Large borer holes
- 2) Splits
- 3) Unsound knots
- 4) Shake
- 5) Sapwood

Cumaru Grade Definitions Summary

PREMIUM SELECT – *Inspected and Hand Selected for Special Appearance on 4 sides.*

Grading Face, Back Face, and Edges – Clear All Heart:

Include - Appearance Characteristics.

Include - Physical Characteristics which can be removed using normal installation methods, tools, or sanding.

Exclude - Sound Defects

Exclude - Unsound Defects

Exclude - Milling Defects.

FEQ (First One Face and Better) – *Standard First Quality Grade; inspected by unit sampling*

Include - Appearance Characteristics

Include - Physical Characteristics that can be removed using normal installation methods, tools, or sanding.

Include - Sound Defects

Grading Face – Clear All Heart:

Exclude - Unsound Defects

Exclude - Milling Defects

Back Face and Edges:

Include – Unsound Defects

Include – Milling Defects

GRADE NOTES

AD - Lumber is air dried on sticks to allow for ventilation during transport and storage. Lumber will typically have moisture content of 18% and higher.

KD - Lumber will be dried to have moisture content of 14% or lower.

SUBGRADE ALLOWANCES – Industry standards allow for any grade to include up to 5 percent of the next lower grade to be included in any volume supplied.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS Tropical Hardwood Products are among the best choices for exterior constructions and applications. Tropical Hardwoods are generally more durable, more resistant to damage, easier to maintain and more environmentally sustainable than alternative products like PVC, or composite materials. And unlike petroleum based products wood can be cleaned, reconditioned, restored, reclaimed and reused making wood truly “Green By Nature”

APPEARANCE EXPECTATIONS It is the variation in character that gives wood a natural beauty. When specifying wood products for exterior construction it is important to have realistic appearance expectations. When used outdoors wood products will not retain the appearance associated with their use in interior applications like furniture or flooring. Wood will not hold its original color over time without cleaning and reapplication of finishes. Wood by its nature will be subject to some limited amount of natural reaction as it cannot be predicted how a natural product like wood will behave in any given environment or conditions. It is woods natural characteristics that define its beauty.