

Chestnut, sweet



Castanea sativa

Also known as: sweet chestnut, European chesnut (Europe), Spanish chesnut (Spain)

1. General Information

- **Distribution**

The tree occurs from south-west Europe, including Britian, northwards to France, south-west Germany and Australia, North Africa and Asia Minor.

- **Environmental**

Not listed in CITES. Believed available from well-managed sources. Check certification status with suppliers.

- **The Timber**

The sapwood is narrow, and distinct from the heartwood which is yellowish-brown in colour, closely resembling oak in appearance but lacking the silver-grain figure characteristic of that timber, resulting from the finer rays. The grain may be straight, but is more commonly spiral, particularly in wood from old trees, while logs are liable to cup and ring-shake. It weighs about 560 kg/m³ when dried. On account of its somewhat acidic character chestnut tends to accelerate the corrosion of metals, particularly when moist. It also contains tannin, as a result of which blue-black discolourations are prone to appear on the wood when it comes into contact with iron or iron compounds.

- **The Tree**

In favourable situations sweet chestnut attains a height of 30m or more and a maximum diameter of 1.8m with a straight, unbranched bole of about 6m, but in less favourable conditions, the undivided bole is little more than 3m long after which it divides off into several huge limbs so that the general character of the tree is altered.

- **Wood type**

Hardwood

2. Timber Properties

- **Chemical properties**

Stains in contact with ferrous metals. Fine dust may be an irritant. Natural tannins can be released.

- **Coating**

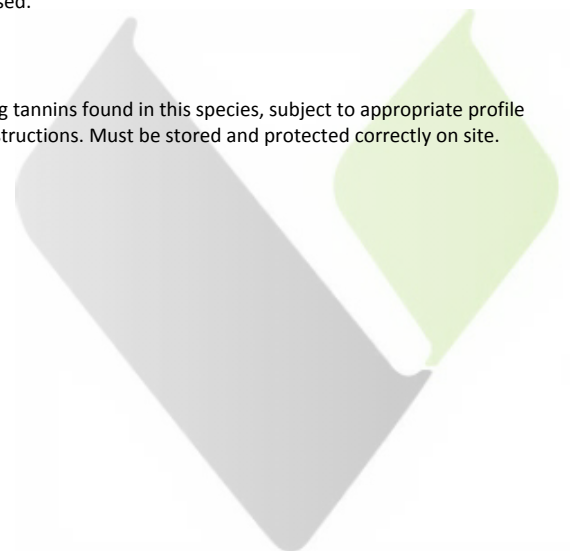
Can be coated but please discuss suitability with coating manufacturers due to natural occurring tannins found in this species, subject to appropriate profile design, sound preparation and application of the coating in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Must be stored and protected correctly on site.

- **Colour**

Yellow brown

- **Density**

560 kg/m³



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- **Drying**

The timber is rather difficult to dry, retaining its moisture in patches, and tending to collapse and honeycomb; this form of defect does not respond well to reconditioning treatments.

- **Durability**

Durable

- **Fixings**

Stainless Steel fixings are recommended and Marine grade may be required in close proximity of the sea. Round head ring annular nails are preferred or suitable screws. Please ensure fixing and fixing system is appropriate to species.

- **Fire Retardant**

No available internal or external pressure impregnated treatments to Euro Class 'B' or 'C'. Brush/spray applied options may be available for internal use ONLY.

- **Lengths**

This material is supplied as finger jointed and can therefore be supplied in exact cross cut lengths upto 6m .

- **Movement**

Small

- **Price**

Medium/High

- **Sawn Sections**

Finger jointed only - machined profiles will be thinner/narrower.

27 x 90/110/130/155

38 x 90/110/130/155

50 x 90/110/130/155

For Solid materials please contact our sales team.

- **Texture**

Medium

- **Treatability**

Extremely difficult

- **Uses**

Joinery, Cladding (exterior & interior), Decking, Louvres / Brise soleil and Roofing and Walling Shakes

- **Working qualities**

Good - Easy to work with and finishes excellently .Takes nails, glue, stain and polish well.

3. Site Expectations – Natural Characteristics

All timber materials MUST be stored in accordance with good site practice, please refer to our [Storing of Timber document](#)

This timber contains natural occurring extractives, which can be present in the form of brown or occasionally yellowish streaks. Finger-jointed process removes the majority of defects, occasional large knot or broken knot is allowed. Tannin can exude from materials when installed, please protect decorative areas that are directly below Sweet Chestnut as staining can occur.