



Black Bean

SCIENTIFIC: *Castanospermum australe*.
Family: Leguminosae

A.K.A: Moreton Bay bean,
Moreton Bay chestnut, beantree

The heartwood ranges from dark brown to chocolate shades deepening almost to black; sometimes streaked with lighter coloured bands. Grain is usually straight but can be wavy or interlocked resulting in a deep, decorative appearance. The highly figured wood commonly has an attractive heart shaped feature in some logs. The texture is moderately coarse and is slightly greasy to the touch. The sapwood is white to yellow in colour with striated vessel lines prominent on longitudinal surfaces. This effect is due to chalky grey soft tissue (parenchyma) surrounding the vessels.

HARDNESS

Moderately hard (rated 3 on a 6 class scale) in relation to indentation and ease of working with hand tools. (7.5 Janka)

MACHINING

Machines and turns well to a smooth finish.

FIXING

No difficulty has been experienced with the use of standard fittings and fastenings.

GLUING

Some difficulties can occur but generally can be satisfactorily bonded using standard procedures. Greasy nature may interfere with some adhesives. The use of a high solid PVA or polyurethane may be advantageous.

FINISHING

Staining is normally not necessary. It polishes well but because of the coarse texture, prior filling may be necessary.

ENGINEERING

Once used as sawn and round timber in bridge construction and as mining timbers.

CONSTRUCTION

Once had limited use in general house framing and more commonly as flooring, lining, mouldings and joinery, but is rarely used for these applications now.

DECORATIVE

Plywood, furniture, shop and office fixtures, joinery, turnery, carving, inlay work, walking sticks, umbrella sticks.

OTHER USES

Gunstocks, knife handles, vehicle and carriage building.



DENSITY (kg/m ³ dry)	770
MODULUS OF RUPTURE (MPa dry)	115
MODULUS OF ELASTICITY (GPa dry)	15
RADIAL SHRINKAGE%	1.8
TANGENTIAL SHRINKAGE%	5.8
HARDNESS (Janka)(kN)	7.5
STABILITY	GOOD
NATURAL DURABILITY. IN/ABOVE GROUND	1/1
SAPWOOD LYCTIDSUSCEPTIBLE	YES
MACHINING	EXCELLENT
RESISTANCE TO SPLIT IN NAILING	GOOD
RESISTANCE TO SPLIT IN SCREWING	GOOD
GLUING	DIFFICULT
GROWING REGION	QLD

