

Plantation Ash: *Eucalyptus nitens*

Other common names: Shining Gum

The Timber Strong, stable and attractive, Plantation Ash is an exclusively plantation grown hardwood suitable for a wide range of applications internally and, if treated, externally. The timber can be used structurally in commercial, industrial or domestic construction in solid, nail-plated, glue-laminated or truss forms. It is also suitable for flooring and panelling, joinery and furniture. Planing or sanding to an excellent finish, the wood accepts the full commercially available range of adhesives and finishes.

The timber is strong, stable and moderately hard. Pale in tone, with colouring from light pink to pale brown and blonde, the wood readily accepts stains to match any application. Timber from unpruned plantations often includes a range of feature characteristics.

The Resource Plantation eucalypt fibre is the preferred choice for papermaking worldwide with high fibre yield and light colour requiring less bleaching than other wood fibre.

Plantation Ash is currently sawn exclusively from plantation grown *Eucalyptus nitens*. This species is one of the two preferred eucalypt species for hardwood plantations in Tasmania. Frost tolerant and resistant to insect attack, *E. nitens* is quick growing and has a wide distribution from coastal sites to high altitude.

Trees of suitable size for sawing are collected from thinning at ages as young as eight to ten years and from clearfall harvests at ages from twelve to twenty five years. Trees can yield up to four sawlogs at clearfall, each 5.5m long.

Following harvest, plantations sites are ripped and mounded, then replanted with a single application of fertilizer to each seedling. Burning of sites is not necessary and successive replantings have been found to not deplete soil nutrients.





Plantation Ash properties:

Colour	Light pink to pale brown and blonde
Grain	Straight, open and even. Growth rings are visible and usually conspicuous
Texture	Uniform and smooth.
Durability	In-ground contact: Class 4. Outside above ground: Class 3. Termite resistance of heartwood: Not resistant. Refer to AS 5604-2005 Timber - Natural durability ratings. For exterior applications, it should be painted or coated.
Lyctid susceptibility	Sapwood is generally susceptible.
Sizes	Dressed seasoned structural in 90, 120, 140, 170, 190 width, 35, 45 thickness, lengths to 5.4. Appearance material in standard sizes for flooring and lining.
Density	600 kg/m ³ .
Shrinkage (green to 12% MC)	Approx. 6.0% tangential after reconditioning.
Movement	Between 25% and 5% MC, tangential movement is about 0.16% per 1% MC change.
Strength groups	SD6 provisionally.
Joint group	JD3.
Structural grades	Most commonly available in industry-defined grades.
Hardness (Janka)	4.7 kn seasoned.

Fire hazard properties: flooring (AS ISO 9239.1)

Critical radiant heat flux	> 2.2 and < 4.5kW/m ²
Smoke development rate	< 750%.min

Fire hazard properties: wall and ceiling lining (AS/NZ 3837)

Material group no.	3
Average extinction area	< 250m ² /kg

Workability

General	Plantation Ash is resilient and relatively easy to work.
Blunting	Low to moderate blunting.
Sawing	Cuts cleanly.
Planing	Moderate feeding forces required. Surfaces smooth and even.
Moulding	Surfaces true, clean and even.
Boring	Easy to drill, holes clean and to size.
Rebating + mortising	Produces excellent results.
Turning	Turns well.
Nailing	Predrilling sometimes necessary near board ends.
Gluing	Glues well with common adhesives.
Bending	A good bending timber.
Finishing	Readily worked to a smooth, lustrous surface. Stains and finishes very well.

for further information contact:

Locked Bag 1324, Launceston, Tasmania, 7250
 freecall in Tasmania: 1800 244 870
 other states: 03 (int+613) 6324 4470
 web: www.tastimber.tas.gov.au
 email: info@tastimber.tas.gov.au

Due to the printing process, the colours shown are indicative only.