

IROKO – Also known as “African Teak” is a hard wood native to tropical west coast Africa, primarily found in the Ivory Coast and Cameroons. Generally used in the boat building & marine work as well as in high quality furniture. Desirable due to its durability, density, and good weathering properties. It does not require regular treatment of oil or varnish. Also, it is non oily and can be easily glued unlike Burmese teak that resists most glues. Very resistant to termites and marine bore attacks. Color is generally light brown to golden brown. Iroko has a medium to coarse texture with an interlocking grain structure. Iroko is a very hard wood measuring 1260 on the *Janka* wood hardness scale. Comparatively, Burmese teak is slightly softer at a 1200 rating. Iroko trees can reach 160 feet in height and the logs average 30” in diameter. *Price in the USA is around \$12 per board foot.*

Burmese TEAK – A premium hardwood that grows in and is *exported exclusively from the country of Burma*. A prized marine wood because of its beauty and resiliency to warping, rotting, and degrading – even under harsh rain and sun. It is a very oily wood and is very durable and termite resistant. The Silica rich soils in Burma and the resulting horticultural effect are the main reasons that “Burmese” Teak is considered the best in the World. Even different regions within Burma can have distinct quality differences. Used primarily in the high end boat making and marine industry. Export of this wood is limited by trade restrictions and timber management & conservation efforts.

The *Burma Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003*, limits the direct import of Teak from Burma to the USA. There are “Loopholes” in this legislation that international brokers use to sell Burmese teak “legally” to the lucrative United States market. Illegal imports of Burmese Teak are generally routed legally through Thailand, Indonesia, and/or China then shipped to the USA and the cost of this wood has sky rocketed due to the above listed influences. *In the USA, the price of genuine Burmese Teak is approximately \$ 35 per board foot.*