



## Lenga

### NOTHOFAGUS PUMILIO

Lenga, or fireland cherry as it is more commercially known, is so easy to work and finish that it is quickly ranking among the preferred woods for fine mouldings and millwork. Lenga has a warm reddish-brown color which darkens upon exposure to light. Less hard and dense than most hardwoods used for millwork, its color and luster more than make up for this. This species closely resembles American cherry, European beech and birch in appearance.

### FAMILY

Fagaceae.

### OTHER COMMON NAMES

Fireland Cherry, South American Beech, Anis, Lengue, Nire.

### ORIGIN

Chile, Argentina, Patagonia and Fireland territory; found in temperate climates, not a rainforest species.

### APPEARANCE

The heartwood varies from light tan to pale pink in color. The sapwood is described as white or light brown to yellowish in color. Lower grades have cream-colored to grayish streaks. Lenga exhibits a medium degree of color change, first darkening to a medium pinkish-red color and then ambering slightly. The grain is usually straight and the texture varies from fine to medium. Luster is typically low to medium with no distinctive odor.

### DENSITY AND BUOYANCY

Lenga is a relatively dense wood, with a Janka hardness of 990 (Red Oak is 30% harder than lenga), and an average weight of 38 lbs./cu. ft. Specific gravity is .49, making this wood very buoyant.

### DRYING AND SHRINKAGE

Lenga is very difficult to dry, usually requiring two years to air dry. Care must also be taken when kiln drying to avoid collapse. The timbers are reported to have very good dimensional stability after seasoning, and show negligible movement after manufacture.

## WORKABILITY

Lenga is reported to be generally easy to work with for both hand and machine tools. It planes, turns, bores, moulds, and mortises well to yield clean surfaces. The wood glues well and can be sanded easily. Steam bending properties are rated from fair to good. Strength in compression, parallel to grain, is in the high range. Other species in this range include teak, white oak and hard maple. It is fairly hard, resisting wear and denting fairly well.

## DURABILITY

Medium – natural resistance to decay is reported to vary with species.

## PRESERVATION

Heartwood resistance to preservative treatment is rated as moderate, but the sapwood is permeable.

## USES

Paneling, mouldings, cabinets and casework for the home and office, drawers, containers and interior furniture.

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Fireland cherry is a close grain wood that stains well to resemble American cherry, and is grown in a temperate forest in Chile.

Its other qualities include:

- warm, reddish-brown tones that darken when exposed to light
- strong, rich luster
- very workable wood



## LUMBER

Custom sizes available in paneling and mouldings.

4/4", 5/4", 6/4",  
8/4" thickness

4" and wider

6' and longer, up to 14'

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