



## Greenheart

*Scientific Name: Ocotea rodiaei/Chlorocardium rodiei*



**Distribution:** Commercial quantities mostly in the north ventral portion of Guyana but also found in Surinam and in the Venezuelan Guiana. It has also been reported from the Maroni/Region of Western French Guiana and from northern Brazil.

**The Tree:** Grows to a height of 130 ft. with diameters up to 40 in., commonly 16 to 24 in. in diameter with height of 100 ft. Boles are cylindrical, straight, and clear for 50 to 75 ft. with only moderate taper; usually basally swollen or with low buttresses.

**General Characteristics:** Heartwood varies from light to dark olive green or blackish, often with intermingling of lighter and darker areas; not sharply defined from the pale yellow or greenish sapwood. Texture fine and uniform; grain straight to roey; lustrous; odorless and tasteless when dry.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (oven-dry weight/green volume) 0.80 to .091; air-dry density 62 to 70 pcf.

**Mechanical Properties:** (First set of data based on the 2-cm standard; second on the 2-in. standard)

Moisture Content (%)	Bending Strength (Psi)	Modulus of Elasticity (1,000 Psi)	Max. Crushing Strength (Psi)
Green (42)	20,300	2,310	9,770
12%	26,200	3,040	13,040
Green (40)	20,900	3,040	10,690
12%	25,500	3,700	13,040

*NOTE: duplicate values under "Moisture Content" represent multiple tests conducted at different times.*

Janka side hardness 1,880 lb. for green material and 2,360 lb. at 12% moisture content.

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Wood dries very slowly with a marked tendency to check and split; however, warping is not serious and the total amount of degrade is not excessive. Lumber over 1 in. in thickness should be air-seasoned prior to kiln-drying. Kiln schedule T2-C2 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T2-C2 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to overdry: radial 8.8%; tangential 9.6%; volumetric 17.1% Movement in service is rated medium.

**Working Properties:** Moderately difficult to work with hand or machine tools because of its density, dulls cutting edges rather quickly but finishes to a fine smooth lustrous surface. Turns easily and takes a high polish. A moderately good steam-bending wood. Glue gives variable results.

**Durability:** The heartwood is rated highly resistant to attack by decay fungi and also rated as highly resistant to attack by marine borers but this may vary from one locality to another, particularly in brackish water. Highly resistant to attack by dry-wood termites.

**Preservation:** Impermeable to preservative treatments.

**Uses:** Marine and ship construction, lock gates, docks, industrial flooring, vats, filter press plates, piling, heavy construction, turnery, specialty items (fishing rods, billiard cue butts).