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Department of
CONSERVATION & LAND MANAGEMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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JARRAH- The Beauty and Elegance of a Western Australian Mahogany.



- ▲ Mature jarrah at its most elegant, deeply polished and beautifully finished in a subtle design.
- ▲ Sturdy and attractive, slatted jarrah outdoor settings will enhance patio, pool or garden.
- ▶ Traditional bench style table in warm, red jarrah to give any kitchen or dining area a comfortable glow.

JARRAH

JARRAH — A UNIQUE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MAHOAGANY

Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) is a hardwood growing only in the south-west forests of Western Australia. Its fine-grained beauty is appreciated by those who know and love the rich feel of well-made furniture.

Jarrah ranges in colour from the deep red-brown timber of the mature forests, to the salmon coloured young jarrah of the regrown forests.

The outstanding qualities of the mature wood — its beauty, strength, durability and versatility — are maintained in the younger material.

Both are outstanding for the manufacture of quality hardwood products.

Skilled artisans use jarrah for the manufacture of fine indoor and outdoor furniture, wall panelling, flooring, doors and furniture that display the unique properties of this timber.

Jarrah is highly prized for sculptures, wood carvings and turned articles.

FROM RAILWAY SLEEPERS TO DINING TABLES

Early settlers on the Swan River in Western Australia called jarrah “Swan River Mahogany” because of its similar qualities, colour and texture to those other fine hardwoods.

Jarrah has long been renowned for its strength and durability, having been used as railway sleepers, as bridge and dock piles, and even paving blocks for the streets of London.

Fine jarrah with its long-lasting qualities adds distinction to any home.

RESEARCH — NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR JARRAH

New technology and a new appreciation for the value of jarrah have led manufacturers to use this unique timber increasingly for making fine hardwood products.



- ◀ What could be more natural in a kitchen than easy to maintain and versatile jarrah?
- ▼ Rich texture and interesting line make jarrah units perfect for modern or traditional displays.
- ▼ Chunky, durable garden furniture blends with any natural setting and adds interest to any vista.



At the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Wood Utilisation Research Centre, methods of processing both the younger and mature timber are being developed which will improve the industry in Western Australia.

Because younger jarrah timber is smaller, milling equipment and techniques have been developed to handle the new sizes.

Continuing research into improved drying techniques for jarrah is ensuring the quality of the end product.

Perth, the capital city of Western Australia, has a long tradition of fine furniture craftsmanship. Several hundred furniture manufacturers create original jarrah pieces, outstanding in their beauty and design.

PROPERTIES OF JARRAH

The texture of jarrah is relatively coarse but even. It has an interlocking grain, sometimes producing a fiddleback figure.

Green density is about 1120kg/m³ and air dried density about 820kg/m³. Tests have indicated radial shrinkage of 4.6 per cent, and tangential shrinkage of 6.7 per cent.

The heartwood is durable and is difficult to impregnate with preservatives. Considering the density of jarrah it is relatively easy to work provided tools are maintained in a sharp condition. The planer angle may need to be reduced to 15 degrees.

Jarrah glues satisfactorily and is suitable for steam bending. Sapwood is resistant to lyctid borers.

Further information on jarrah furniture and Western Australian furniture manufacturers can be obtained by contacting

The Guild of Furniture Manufacturers

279 Lord Street

East Perth, WA 6000

Telephone: National (09) 328 3345

International +61 9 328 3345



MANAGEMENT OF THE JARRAH FOREST

The 1.4 million hectares of publicly owned jarrah forest in Western Australia has recently been the subject of an intense planning process which involved extensive public participation.

Resulting from this is a plan for the forest which achieves a balance in the competing uses. The key aspects of the plan are:

- One third of the forest is set aside in National Parks and Reserves managed for the conservation of flora and fauna. No harvesting is allowed in these areas.
- The remainder of the forest is managed for multiple uses including timber harvesting, water supply, recreation and conservation.
- Harvesting of timber is regulated to levels that can be sustained indefinitely.
- The processing of timber from State forest is encouraged to reach the highest end value product.

The jarrah forest is in a unique position in relation to other world hardwood forests as the extraction of timber from the forest is regulated so that the supply of high grade timber suitable for value-added products, including furniture, can be sustained indefinitely. In addition its environmental and recreational values are protected through adequate reservation and sensitive management.

