

**Common name:** Tawhai, Silver Beech  
**Botanical name:** *Nothofagus menziesii*

### WHY USE SILVER BEECH?

Silver beech is sourced from sustainably managed forests and is becoming the favoured wood to replace Rimu as the prime native species. It is excellent as a turnery species, particularly good in brushes and dowels, and excellent for cabinetry. It also is renowned for its steam bending properties and was once widely used for motor-body building. Today, it is useful for brushware and dowels, small turned goods and implements, handles and railings, and furniture.

### APPEARANCE AND DESCRIPTION:

The colour of silver beech varies with location, age and between the sap and heartwood, but always has a pinkish to red overtone. The dry sapwood is a light pinkish grey, and the heartwood pinkish brown.

### PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

#### Durability:

Silver beech is non-durable, both for heartwood and sapwood. It is unsuitable for outdoor applications but can be used for interior and indoor furniture applications without the need for further treatment.

#### Mechanical properties:

Density at 12% moisture content	592kg/m <sup>3</sup> (ranges from 585-705 kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Modulus of elasticity	12.0 GPa
Modulus of rupture	100 MPa
Shear strength parallel to grain	12.5 MPa
Compression strength parallel to grain	47 MPa
Side Hardness	4.5 kN
Tangential shrinkage – green to 12% MC	5.7%
Radial Shrinkage – green to 12% MC	2.6%

#### Machining:

The wood of silver beech is very easily turned and shaped, and having no silica content, it does not blunt cutting knives. It is also an excellent carving timber.

#### Gluing and coating considerations:

No particular considerations.