**Vitex** is a major commercial species of the Solomon Islands. A medium sized to large tree found throughout the South West Pacific region but of more common occurrence in the North Solomons and the Solomon Islands.

- **Vitex** produces a beautiful olive-grey wood with an attractive banded or striped pattern on quarter-sawn faces. Often referred to as **New Guinea teak**, having similar properties and uses to that of **teak** (*Tectona grandis*), and belonging to the same family of Verbenaceae. Many trees are of relatively poor form, being heavily fluted in the bole, thus minimising sawn recovery. The wood is distinctly greasy to the touch.

- It is held in high esteem throughout the Solomons where it has been used for many years, to make the large Kundu-type message drums, due its magnificent acoustics and wearing ability.

- The timber seasons very slowly with little degrade. Quarter-sawing is preferable for drying and a variety of end uses as well as for aesthetic reasons.

- An extremely popular timber, held in high regard for boat-building due to its durability, strength, excellent steam bending and working properties. Suitable for high quality joinery, flooring, decking, window sills, staircase materials and carving.

**Recommended Uses (Major/specific)**

- **Building Construction** (F27).
- **Flooring & staircase materials.**
- **Exterior joinery; including posts, poles, decking, gazebos, pergolas.**
- **Furniture; including outdoor garden furniture.**
- **Boat building: including ribs, planking, decking.**
- **Engineering: including wharves, bridges.**

**Other names:**

- **Trade Names:** New Guinea teak
- **Local Name:** vasa

For further information: www.solomontimbers.com.sb
**PROPERTIES**

Density  
700 – 800kg/m³ @12% m.c

Colour  
Pale yellowish-brown to greyish, olive-brown.

Texture  
Fine and even; slightly lustrous.

Grain  
Sometimes straight but usually interlocked.

Figure  
Distinct striped or ribbon figure on quarter sawn faces.

Durability  
Durable.

Permeability  
Heartwood, impermeable to pressure impregnation.

Lyctid susceptibility  
Resistant.

**WORKABILITY**

General  
Good working and finishing properties, where there are no grain irregularities.

Sawing  
Readily sawn.

Planing  
Good planing characteristics with the grain.

Blunting  
Low.

Boring  
Excellent characteristics.

Turning  
Very good characteristics finishing with sharp arrises.

Nailing  
Nails well, pre-drilling advisable to prevent splitting on board ends.

Gluing  
Care required due to natural greasiness of wood.

Finishing  
Works and sands to a smooth finish; takes an excellent polish.

**MECHANICAL PROPERTIES**

Strength  
SD3 (seasoned).

Structural Grade  
F27 (select grade).

Toughness (Izod)  
7.3J (seasoned), 15J (unseasoned).

Hardness (Janka)  
5.6kN (seasoned), 5.1kN (unseasoned).

Max. Crushing Strength  
64 MPa (seasoned), 42 MPa (unseasoned).

Modulus of Elasticity  
14 GPa (seasoned), 12 GPa (unseasoned).

Modulus of Rupture  
133 MPa (seasoned), 80 MPa (unseasoned).

**SEASONING**

General:  
Seasons slowly, but well, with little degrade. Preferable to preliminary air dry prior to kiln drying. A high humidity equalizing treatment should be applied at end of drying cycle.

Movement  
Medium.

Shrinkage  
Medium.

**KILN DRYING SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T (mm)</th>
<th>S.P</th>
<th>M.C CHANGE POINTS</th>
<th>DBT (°C)</th>
<th>WBD (°C)</th>
<th>KD TIME TO 12%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FROM GREEN (days)</td>
<td>FROM 25% (days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10–12</td>
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<td>40</td>
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<td>65</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>20–final</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>70</td>
<td>20</td>
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