

MACROCARPA INFO SHEET

Natural NZ Macrocarpa:
The timber with style, strength and durability

Macrocarpa has been used in house building around New Zealand since the early 1900s. It is used by many carpenters, boat builders, crafts people and furniture manufacturers as a structural material for strength and durability and also a decorative wood because of its fine colours and attractive grain. End uses include outdoor furniture, pergolas, landscaping, exposed rafters and beams, cladding, fencing, kitchens, bar tops, and signage.

Macrocarpa clears are very similar to Kauri in character. It is one of the most naturally durable exotic softwoods grown in New Zealand and is resistant to insect and borer attack in its sawn form. When dry it will accept a variety of paints, oils, resins and varnishes. Today it has become the timber of choice for many home owners. It is not treated with chemicals therefore it is becoming the popular option for home as well as public areas such as schools, parks and the hospitality industry.



Macrocarpa is more resilient and durable than many other woods making it very suitable for outdoor furniture. Natural changes in the character of wood can not be predicted over time and will vary according to the environment and care given. It is inevitable that wood will expand, contract and change its shape and appearance. Particularly when exposed to the elements or shifted to a different climatic location. With age, bark and knots may shrink, cracking and distortions may occur. This may require further maintenance and finishing or it can be left thereby adding more character. Any cracks that may appear can be left to look natural or can be filled with an epoxy resin.

WARNING

An enemy to any timber is fungus. This is an organism which will inhabit a crevice and then siphon moisture into the wood. The fungus will then decompose and absorb the organic material in which it grows making the wood soft and rotten. The first sign of any fungus needs to be treated immediately with appropriate chemicals.

Keeping wood clean and well maintained will help prevent fungus spreading.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR OUTDOOR FURNITURE

To keep maintenance to a minimum, we recommend a sheltered location protected from direct sunlight and the harsh environment. Regular cleaning with a cloth and water is helpful. If necessary a little sugar soap can be used.

If overdue for an oil and timber appears weathered then you could do a light sand first. If the timber has been somewhat neglected then a sander with a course grit may be needed to restore to its previous glory.

Oiling is recommended to keep timber sealed for preservation and attractiveness, and when fading or discolouring appears. Before re-oiling clean off any dirt or pollen and allow surface to dry. Oil on a warm day not in direct sunlight otherwise the oil may dry before penetrating. Brush on oil generously then if necessary use a cloth to distribute evenly by swiping the full length.

Some prefer to allow their Macrocarpa furniture to age naturally outdoors without oil. If left natural, over time the colour will become a weathered silver gray similar to driftwood and the grain of the wood will become slightly raised.

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