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QUEENSLAND FOREST SERVICE

Department of Public Lands, Queensland



RED TULIP OAK

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RED TULIP OAK.

IDENTITY.

Red Tulip Oak, botanically known as *Tarrietia argyrodendron* (Benth.), variety *peralata* (Bail.), is a member of the Sterculiaceæ, and represents the largest and most useful tree of this family in Queensland.

The official name Red Tulip Oak has been given to the timber by the Forest Service to describe its general appearance and fine "oak" grain visible on quarter-sawn boards.

The tree is one of the largest in the tropical coastal forests of North Queensland, reaching a total height of about 120 feet with a bole sometimes exceeding 10 feet in girth above the widely spurred base.

Above the spurs the trunk is usually very long, straight, and cylindrical in shape. After Kauri Pine, the bole of Red Tulip Oak is regarded as the best in shape of all North Queensland trees.

AVAILABILITY.

Red Tulip Oak, being found only on the Atherton Plateau and northward along the ranges towards the Daintree River, has Cairns for its port of shipment.

As one of the most common timbers of these areas the total quantity of timber available for marketing has been estimated at more than 200 million super. feet.

The larger logs show small pipes and brash timber in the heart, which somewhat reduce the sawn output. On small logs the sapwood reaches a thickness of about 2 inches and its colour deepens gradually into the *truewood, making its limits more difficult to define than in the case of mature logs where the sapwood is less thick and more sharply defined in colour.

Red Tulip Oak is now available in thoroughly seasoned boards of all widths and thicknesses, T. and G. flooring, mouldings, and rotary-cut plywood.

THE TIMBER AND ITS QUALITIES.

Colour and Figure.—Truewood of Red Tulip Oak varies in colour from pale pink to light red, according to its position in the log and the maturity of the tree from which it is cut.

* NOTE.—The term "truewood" has recently been adopted to denote the mature wood between pith and sapwood.