

## WELCOME

Looking for timber to mill? Details of currently registered Sustainable Forest Management Plans and Permits are publicly available. If you are looking for a particular species, we may be able to direct you to someone with an approval for that species.

We can also provide a list of all sawmillers registered to mill indigenous timber.

Contact your MPI Regional Adviser for access to any of this information.

## SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: Kahikatea

(*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*)

**GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION:** Kahikatea, or White Pine as it is commonly known, was formerly widespread in often pure stands, and was densely stocked on tracts of fertile lowland soils, particularly swampy terraces and alluvial plains throughout the country. Unfortunately the extent of kahikatea has been considerably reduced as a result of drainage of swamps and conversion of the land to pastoral farming. Kahikatea is New Zealand's tallest native tree with some specimens of 60 metres being recorded. Heights commonly range from 15-45 metres. Scattered large specimens still remain on farmland and are a noted feature of the rural landscape.

**TIMBER PROPERTIES:** With a fine even texture and straight grain, kahikatea has heartwood that is dimensionally stable and reasonably durable. The sapwood zone of the tree is wide, and even in mature trees equals or exceeds the heartwood. Sapwood has poor dimensional stability, is particularly prone to sap-stain and borer and is perishable. It dries easily although there is a danger of sap-stain during air drying.

With a density of 450kg/m<sup>3</sup>, in world terms it is considered a light to medium weight timber; it is on a par with totara at 480kg/m<sup>3</sup>. It is less dense than matai at 610kg/m<sup>3</sup> and rimu at 595kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

The heartwood colour ranges from bright yellow through to pale brown to white, while the sapwood is a light creamy white. It has good machining, turning and nailing properties. It holds nails and screws well, glues and finishes smoothly to a surface ideal for painting, varnishing or polishing. It is not recommended for exterior use with stain or a dark finish.

**USES:** The heartwood has been used for weatherboards, joinery and boat-building. The lack of odour and taste make it suitable for uses associated with food and lower-grade wood was historically used to make butter churns and boxes for exporting cheese.



Kahikatea stand, South Westland.



Kahikatea heartwood.

More information on kahikatea can be found in *Wardle's Native Trees of New Zealand and their story*, John Wardle and *New Zealand Timbers*, N.C. Clifton.

## CONTACT US

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## SAWMILLER FOCUS

Brent and Sally Curtis bought an existing sawmill and timber machining business in Richmond, Nelson in 2005 which they renamed "Plankville".

Brent has spent most of his working life in the sawmilling and logging industry, and both Brent and Sally have a great appreciation and feeling for beautiful timber. They promote and encourage the use of locally grown alternative and indigenous species and take pride in milling and selling them.

Brent is well known in the local indigenous sawmilling community and is an advocate for the Ministry for Primary Industries. He also helps landowners with indigenous milling opportunities and actively working through the approval process.

He believes a lot of landowners are unaware that they require Milling Statements in order to mill windthrown, accessway or dead-standing indigenous timber. He also commented "there would appear to be a perception out there that the process of getting a Milling Statement is complicated and drawn out, when actually it is pretty straight-forward".



## CONTACT

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