

This is how the pages in Book 2 should appear when printed: the same timbers are listed on facing pages.

Reference tips

The contents of Books 1 and 2 are described at the start of Book 1.

Looking up a timber

The schedules in Book 2 list the standard trade name of each timber in alphabetical order; each has a unique index number. Note that all the gums and ironbarks are listed under 'gum' or 'ironbark' respectively. To search for a scientific / botanical name, use the index of botanical names in Book 1 to find the relevant index number and trade name.

Quick reference guides to the schedules

'Quick reference guides' are guides to the codes and abbreviations used in the schedule tables; tan-coloured for Part 1, and blue-coloured for Part 2. They are found in the front of Book 2, but printing an extra copy will allow you to have them visible on the workbench as you consult the schedules.

Interpreting columns 1–18 in the schedules

Book 1 explains the terms and interpretation of information given in Parts 1 and 2 of the schedules. Book 1 page numbers are given in the relevant Book 2 columns. It also explains target design life, applications and decay hazard zones.

Is the timber approved for the job?

Scenario 1

You are building a verandah and have some untreated hardwood posts in blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*). You want to know if the timber can be used with direct ground contact.

Look up blackbutt (#76). Its heartwood has a natural durability rating (in-ground) of 2 (Column 8 – use the Schedules guide and Column 8 interpretation, Book 1). This means the timber has a life expectancy of 15 to 25 years. This indicates that the posts won't be approved for use as verandah posts unless the conditions referred to in Column 17 for blackbutt are met.

These conditions vary depending on where, geographically, the construction will be, i.e. in which Local Government region. Refer to the in-ground decay hazard zone map and table (Figure 2 and Table 7, Book 1) to check which zone your local authority falls in, then refer back to the conditions listed in Column 17 for blackbutt when used in that zone.

For example, if you are building the verandah within the Brisbane City Council local authority boundary, your blackbutt posts are required to meet the requirements for in-ground decay zone C.

These requirements state that the posts must be round, not sawn, with a minimum diameter of 300 mm, and must meet the requirements of H5. In addition to meeting the durability requirements, the posts must meet the minimum structural grade quality thresholds (stress grade such as F14), as specified by a qualified draftsman, engineer or architect.

Note: the above-ground natural durability rating for blackbutt is 1, and the heartwood is rated as termite resistant, which means sawn blackbutt posts of appropriate structural grade quality could be mounted on supporting stirrups and used for verandah posts anywhere in Queensland. Untreated sapwood would be permissible if it is within the wane limits described in the relevant standard.

Scenario 2

You have some spotted gum milled into decking material and want to know if the boards would be suitable for use in constructing a verandah.

Look up 'gum, spotted' (#197), and you will find that the properties for all species sold under this trade name have similar ratings and properties. Domestic decking is regarded as a structural application and therefore has a target design life of 50 years (Table 8, Book 1). The spotted gum group of timber species has an above-ground natural durability rating of 1 and can be used for weather-exposed decking in all regions of Australia, providing the grade quality meets the provisions of AS2796¹ for decking products and any sapwood is treated to H3.

Scenario 3

You are designing a pole-frame home for construction within the Toowoomba Local Government jurisdiction (Hazard zone C), and have been offered the choice of grey ironbark poles or slash pine poles.

By comparing these alternative timbers using the *Construction timbers in Queensland* guide you will find that the poles must meet the conditions for a 50 year design life (Table 8 Book 1).

If you design the structure to install the poles in-ground, the grey ironbark poles will need to be a minimum diameter of 300 mm and the sapwood treated to H5. The slash pine in-ground option requires H5 treatment, but no minimum dimension is specified.

For an above-ground design (e.g. supported on stirrups), the grey ironbark poles have no minimum dimension specified, but each pole must meet the structural requirements specified by the designer. Slash pine poles on stirrups must be seasoned and meet the requirements of H3 in accordance with AS1604².

¹ Standards Australia (1999) AS 2796.1. Timber — Hardwood — sawn and milled products. Part 1: Product specification. Australian Standard, distributed by SAI Global Limited.

² Standards Australia (2005) AS 1604 series. Specification for preservative treatment. Australian Standard, distributed by SAI Global Limited.

Further Information

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