

## Toxicity of Various Wood Species

This chart first appeared in the June 1990 issue of *American Woodturner*.  
It has been posted on many websites and presented in many formats ...

| Wood Species    | Reaction  | Areas Affected                  | Potency<br>1=Low, 4=High | Assimilation<br>Source      | Incidence |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Bald Cypress    | Sensitizer  | Respiratory                     | 1                        | Dust                        | Rare      |
| Balsam Fir      | Sensitizer  | Eyes, Skin                      | 1                        | Leaves, Bark                | Common    |
| Basswood        | Sensitizer  | Respiratory                     | 1                        | Dust, Wood                  |           |
| Beech           | Sensitizer, Cancer                                  | Respiratory, Skin, Eyes         | 2                        | Dust, Leaves, Bark          | Common    |
| Birch           | Sensitizer  | Respiratory                     | 2                        | Dust, Wood                  | Common    |
| Black Locust    | Irritant, Nausea, Malaise                           | Eyes, Skin                      | 3                        | Leaves, Bark                | Common    |
| Blackwood       | Sensitizer  | Eyes, Skin                      | 2                        | Dust, Wood                  | Common    |
| Boxwood         | Sensitizer  | Eyes, Skin                      | 2                        | Dust, Wood                  | Common    |
| Cashew          | Sensitizer  | Eyes, Skin                      | 1                        | Dust, Wood                  | Rare      |
| Cocobolo        | Irritant, Sensitizer,                               | Eyes, Skin, Respiratory         | 3                        | Dust, Wood                  | Common    |
| Dahoma          | Irritant  | Eyes, Skin                      | 2                        | Dust, Wood                  | Common    |
| Ebony           | Irritant, Sensitizer                                | Eyes, Skin                      | 2                        | Dust, Wood                  | Common    |
| Elm             | Irritant  | Eyes, Skin                      | 1                        | Dust                        | Rare      |
| Goncalo Alves   | Sensitizer  | Eyes, Skin                      | 2                        | Dust, Wood                  | Rare      |
| Greenheart      | Sensitizer  | Eyes, Skin                      | 3                        | Dust, Wood                  | Common    |
| Hemlock         | Cancer  | Respiratory                     | ?                        | Dust                        | Uncommon  |
| Iroko           | Irritant, Sensitizer,<br>Hypersensitivity Pneumonia | Eyes, Skin, Respiratory         | 3                        | Dust, Wood                  | Common    |
| Jelutong        | Sensitizer  | Eyes, Skin, Respiratory         | 2                        | Dust, Wood                  | Uncommon  |
| Mahogany        | Sensitizer,<br>Hypersensitivity Pneumonia           | Skin, Respiratory               | 1                        | Dust                        | Common    |
| Mansonia        | Irritant, Sensitizer, Nausea,<br>Malaise            | Eyes, Skin                      | 3                        | Dust, Wood                  | Common    |
| Maple (Spalted) | Sensitizer,<br>Hypersensitivity Pneumonia           | Respiratory                     | 3                        | Dust                        | Common    |
| Mimosa          | Nausea, Malaise                                     | Internal                        | ?                        | Leaves, Bark                | Uncommon  |
| Myrtle          | Sensitizer  | Respiratory                     | 2                        | Dust, Leaves, Bark          | Common    |
| Oak             | Sensitizer  | Eyes, Skin                      | 2                        | Dust, Leaves, Bark          | Rare      |
| Obeche          | Irritant, Sensitizer                                | Eyes, Skin, Respiratory         | 3                        | Dust, Wood                  | Common    |
| Oleander        | Direct Toxin  | Cancer, Nausea,<br>Malaise      | 4                        | Dust, Wood,<br>Leaves, Bark | Common    |
| Olivewood       | Irritant, Sensitizer                                | Eyes, Skin, Respiratory         | 3                        | Dust, Wood                  | Common    |
| Opepe           | Sensitizer  | Respiratory                     | 1                        | Dust                        | Rare      |
| Padauk          | Sensitizer  | Eyes, Skin, Respiratory         | 1                        | Dust, Wood                  | Rare      |
| Pau Ferro       | Sensitizer  | Eyes, Skin                      | 1                        | Dust, Wood                  | Rare      |
| Peroba Rosa     | Irritant  | Respiratory, Nausea,<br>Malaise | 2                        | Dust, Wood                  | Uncommon  |
| Purpleheart     | Irritant  | Nausea, Malaise                 | 2                        | Dust, Wood                  | Common    |

|                          |  |                              |        |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Quebracho</b>         | Irritant                               | Respiratory, Nausea, Malaise | 2      | Leaves, Bark, Dust       | Common           |
| <b>Redwood</b>           | Sensitizer, Hypersensitivity Pneumonia | Eyes, Skin, Respiratory      | 2      | Dust                     | Rare             |
| <b>Rosewoods</b>         | Sensitizer, Irritant                   | Eyes, Skin, Respiratory      | 4      | Dust, Wood               | Uncommon         |
| <b>Satinwood</b>         | Irritant                               | Eyes, Skin, Respiratory      | 3      | Dust, Wood               | Common           |
| <b>Sassafras</b>         | Sensitizer                             | Respiratory                  | 1      | Dust                     | Common           |
| <b>Sequoia</b>           | Irritant                               | Respiratory                  | 1      | Dust                     | Rare             |
| <b>Snakewood</b>         | Irritant                               | Respiratory                  | 2      | Dust, Wood               | Rare             |
| <b>Spruce</b>            | Sensitizer                             | Respiratory                  | 1      | Dust, Wood               | Rare             |
| <b>Tupelo</b>            | Sensitizer                             | Eyes, Respiratory            | 1      | Dust                     |                  |
| <b>Walnut, Black</b>     | Sensitizer                             | Eyes, Skin                   | 2      | Dust, Wood               | Common           |
| <b>Wenge</b>             | Sensitizer                             | Eyes, Skin, Respiratory      | 1      | Dust, Wood               | Common           |
| <b>Willow</b>            | Sensitizer                             | Respiratory, Nausea, Malaise | 1      | Dust, Wood, Leaves, Bark | Uncommon         |
| <b>Western Red Cedar</b> | Sensitizer                             | Respiratory                  | 3      | Dust, Leaves, Bark       | Common           |
| <b>Teak</b>              | Sensitizer, Hypersensitivity Pneumonia | Eyes, Skin, Respiratory      | 2      | Dust                     | Common           |
| <b>Yew</b>               | Irritant<br>Direct Toxin               | Eyes, Skin<br>Cardiac        | 2<br>4 | Dust<br>Dust, Wood       | Common<br>Common |
| <b>Zebrawood</b>         | Sensitizer                             | Eyes, Skin                   | 2      | Dust, Wood               |                  |

## References:

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