

Timber Fact Sheet No.2



20 month old deglupta at Riki Riki Community Forest, Roviana Lagoon, Western Province

Deglupta (*Eucalyptus deglupta*), kamarere

Uses

- Furniture making
- Construction (where timber can be kept dry and out of ground contact)

Basic density (plantation grown):
450- 550 kg/m³

Rotation age: 12-20 years

Propagation: Quite difficult to raise from seed. Obtain from local nursery

i Silviculture: Plant 800 stems/ha (5m x 2.5m), reduce to 400 s/ha at canopy closure and to 200 s/ha at when branches begin to touch. Pruning improves quality but not necessary (many branches shed naturally).

General

Deglupta is a species which is recommended in some situations in the Solomon Islands. It has been exported by the two large plantations companies in the Western Province. It has a relatively low value on international markets and can only be sold in lots of more than 2000 cubic metres. There is no overseas markets for small quantities of logs or sawn timber.

It is a timber which is useful in a village or town if it is understood that it **must be used in situations where it is kept dry and is not in contact with the ground.** Therefore it can be used for house framing if the building is watertight. It can be used for weatherboards if painted and for buildings that have generous eaves. It is good for indoor furniture.

The timber is quite easy to saw using a chainsaw frame-mill or a portable sawmill. Some logs can split during sawmilling but most logs will produce useful timber. The timber dries without major distortion. Timber can be used for all construction and joinery (where it is kept dry) and is good for making furniture because it is easy to work with.



This photo shows house which is five years old where the framing and weatherboards are made of deglupta. Note that the piles and floor bearers are natural forest timbers. The deglupta is in good condition after five years. The paint needs to be maintained to get long service from weatherboards. It is not recommended to use deglupta for fascia or bargeboards.

Nursery

This species is relatively difficult to raise from seed because the seeds are very small. Seeds should be sprinkled very lightly over sterile sand (about 10-20 seeds per square cm). Sand can be sterilised by cooking it over a fire for at least an hour. Wait until the sand is cold before sowing. Cover seed with very thin layer of sand. The sand must be kept moist but must not be saturated. Keep from direct sunlight. The germinated seedlings are very small. When plants have 4 to 5 real leaves they can be transplanted (pricked out) into pots or tubes containing 2 parts sieved top soil to 1 part sterilised river sand. New transplants must have 70% shade for two weeks and then reduced to 50% after another 2 weeks. After that the shade can be reduced to 30% until the seedlings are 15cm tall. It is also necessary to protect the tiny seedlings from damage caused by water drops from rain or watering. Water regularly using a fine mist (knapsack sprayer can be used) until the plants are established and growing well then the watering can be reduced. Seedlings are ready to plant when they are about 20cm tall at about 3 months.

Silviculture

Deglupta is a light demanding species so should not be grown in the shade of other trees. It can be grown on grassland if there is black soil. Trees are best planted in rows 5 metres apart with a spacing of 2.5m between trees (800s/ha). It is important to keep the trees well weeded.

When the trees reach about 4m in height then half of them can be removed. The ones that are not straight or are not growing well must be removed to give space for the crop trees, this will leave around 400 trees/ha. The thinned trees can be used for firewood.

When the trees reach a height of 8 metres half can be removed, again cutting the smaller and badly shaped ones to leave 200 trees/hectare. When the trees have a diameter of about 60cm at chest height they can be clearfelled and replanted. This is commonly 12-20 years.

For further information

Please contact your local Forestry Division Forest Extension Officer, the Community Relations Forester at EPPL Arara, or the Community Relations Forester at KFPL.

Your local Forest Extension Officer is _____