



## ***BALAU FACTS & TEAK COMPARISON***

**Yellow Balau** - is a hardwood of the family Dipterocarpaceae. Balau is a very dense, tightly grained wood that is heavily laden with rich oils and resins. Balau's texture is very fine, even and smooth to the touch. Our yellow balau hardwood looks very much like teak in color and appearance. A property comparison between the hardwoods will show balau is twice as strong as teak.

**Better Value-** we have added yellow balau hardwood as an outdoor furniture line, ***Park Bench Designs™***, because of its ***HIGH VALUE***. Yellow balau is almost ***HALF THE COST*** of teak. Logically, if balau is all the quality, feel and looks of teak at half the cost, one can conclude it is a better value.

**Premium Cuts-**We use only the heartwood (center, even golden color) portion of the teak log for construction. Our teak is trimmed of any sap wood (outer, light colored portion of tree), dead knots and imperfections.

**Kiln Dried** - for up to 60 days. The wood is finally sun-dried to achieve a beautiful golden hue. At time of shipment, a moisture content range of between 8% - 14% is achieved. This is the ideal moisture content for teak and hardwood for our dry North American climate. This drying process is essential in reducing warping, cracking, checking and aids in prolonging the life of teak outdoor furniture and balau hardwood furniture. This is the ideal moisture content for teak and hardwood for our dry North American climate.

**History** - For centuries balau has been used for heavy-duty furniture, shipbuilding, heavy construction and coveted for its excellent strength and weather resistant qualities.

**Lower Costs** - Teak has been the best choice of wood for outdoor furniture because of its beauty and durability. Until recently, availability and lower costs have made teak wood the best value in outdoor furniture. In the past, teak has been more popular than balau because of its availability. However, recently teak has been over-harvested and the price has skyrocketed. Although balau's mechanical properties are superior to teak, balau has not experienced the over pricing of teak.

**Ecologically Correct** – Environmentally correct. In accordance with a well established system, we use only wood from properly managed, reforested, sustainable forests and in accordance with all agencies. Balau wood does not come from tropical rain forests. In fact, balau cannot grow in rain forests — it is a deciduous tree which grows in the dry, hilly terrains of forests in Southeast Asia.