

## Wood List relating to Specific Gravity

**Please Note:** Wood species which take a thread easily are close-grained, dense hardwoods with a (SG) specific gravity usually around 1.0 and above. The lists below include certain woods and their "approximate" specific gravity. A SG number is a guideline and is no guarantee how well the wood will accept a hand-chased thread. SG numbers vary based on the source and how the wood is weighed: i.e., the moisture content of the wood.

**SPECIFIC GRAVITY, defined:** *SG is a relative comparison of the weight of ONE cubic foot of water at sea level to another material like wood. One cubic foot of water is 62.4 lbs. 62.4 lbs=SG of 1.0. A cubic foot of wood weighing more than 62.4 Lbs will sink, weighing less, it will float.*

<http://waynesword.palomar.edu/plsept99.htm> source for this chart

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Plant Family (Scientific Name)	Native Country	Specific Gravity
Lignum Vitae ( <i>Guaiacum officinale</i> )	Caltrop (Zygophyllaceae)	S.E. U.S. & Caribbean	1.37
Snakewood ( <i>Piratinera guianensis</i> )	Mulberry (Moraceae)	South America	1.35
Leadwood ( <i>Krugiodendron ferreum</i> )	Buckthorn Rhamnaceae	S. Florida and Keys	1.31
Burma Ironwood ( <i>Xylia xylocarpa</i> )	Legume (Fabaceae)	India Burma	1.29
Quebracho ( <i>Schinopsis balansae</i> )	Sumac Anacardiaceae	Argentina S. America	1.28
Womara ( <i>Swartzia leiocalycina</i> )	Legume Fabaceae	British Guiana	1.28
Wawra ( <i>Combretum imberbe</i> )	Combretum (Combretaceae)	Zimbabwe South Africa	1.23
Billian ( <i>Eusideroxylon zwageri</i> )	Laurel (Lauraceae)	Borneo Malaysia	1.20
Pau d'Arco ( <i>Tabebuia serratifolia</i> )	Bignonia (Bignoniaceae)	Brazil S. America	1.20
Knob-thorn	Legume	South	1.19

( <b>Acacia nigrescens</b> )	(Fabaceae)	Africa	
Brazil Ironwood ( <b>Caesalpinia ferrea</b> )	Legume (Fabaceae)	Brazil S. America	1.15
Desert Ironwood ( <b>Olneya tesota</b> )	Legume (Fabaceae)	S.W. U.S. Mexico	1.15-1.4
Ceylon Ironwood ( <b>Mesua ferrea</b> )	Mangosteen (Guttiferae)	India/Burma Ceylon	1.12
Ebony ( <b>Diospyros ebenum</b> )	Persimmon (Ebenaceae)	India Ceylon	1.12
Mountain Mahogany ( <b>Cercocarpus ledifolius</b> )	Rose (Rosaceae)	S.W. U.S. Mexico	1.12
Black Ironwood ( <b>Olea laurifolia</b> )	Olive (Oleaceae)	South Africa	1.11
leadwood or wawra ( <b>Combretum imberbe</b> )			1.23
<b>Condalia</b> /tropical ironwood			1.42
Mulberry <b>Piratinera guianensis</b> 1.43			1.43

Solid	Density	
	SG	My comments (S. Angelo)
Box Wood European/Buxus Sempervirens	0.95 - 1.2	<b>Turkish or English-Everyone's favorite</b>
Ebony	1.1 - 1.3	<b>Threads OK-tends to crumble</b>
Mountain Mahogany ( <i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i> )	1.2	<b>I have tried a little-it has possibilities and worth trying</b>
Lignum Vitae	1.17 - 1.33	<b>Excellent/my next favorite-may shrink when drying</b>
Persimmon	0.9	<b>Will thread if you are very skilled!!</b>
Rosewood, East Indian	0.90	<b>I have had good luck with Honduran Rosewood</b>
Satinwood	0.95	
Teak, Indian	0.65 - 0.9	
Teak, African	0.98	
African Blackwood <i>Dalbergia melanoxylon</i>	1.2	<b>Very good, will crumble "a bit" if not careful</b>
Mopane <i>Colophospermum Mopane</i>	1.2	<b>Excellent and very pretty wood</b>
Satine Bloodwood <i>Brosimum paraense</i>	1.2	<b>Takes a thread well.....</b>
Australian Snakewood	1.35	<b>(From a pen blank) very hard wood and excellent threading wood</b>
Kingwood <i>Dalbergia cearensis</i>	1.2	<b>Never tried this but I think it is very good</b>
Cocobolo <i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	1.1	<b>"Thread ability" depends a lot on the piece of wood</b>
Rosewood (family)	Around 1.0	<b>The right piece will thread well. Or Not..</b>
American Hard maple	.6-.8	<b>I have had some luck with hard maple I use such wood for temporary screw chucks</b>