



***Castanopsis chrysophylla*  
Giant Chinkapin**

**Family: Fagaceae**

The genus *Castanopsis* contains about 100 species growing in: North America [1] and tropical and subtropical Asia [99]. The term castanopsis means resembling *Castanea*, a chestnut and related genus, while chrysophylla means golden leaf referring to the golden yellow scales on the underside of leaves.

*Castanopsis chrysophylla*-Chestnut, Chinkapin, Chinquapin, Chinquipin, Evergreen Chestnut, Evergreen Chinkapin, Giant Chinkapin, Giant Evergreen Chinkapin, Golden Chinkapin, Golden Chinquapin, Goldenleaf Chestnut, Goldenleaf Chinkapin, Western Chinquapin

**Distribution**

Pacific coast region from southwest Washington south to western Oregon, and in coastal ranges and Sierra Nevada to central California.

**The Tree**

The Giant Chinkapin attains a height of over 100 feet and diameters of 4 feet. The bark is a dark red brown, with deep fissures. It grows in mountain slopes and ravines between 3,000 and 6,000 feet. They occur individually among the coastal redwood forests and in large stands in association with juniper and oaks. It is a slow growing species living to over 400 years. When the trees flower in late spring, they are covered in white blossoms which emit a strong odor. It is a masting species, producing large crops of nuts in a cyclical manner, after several years of low nut production.

**The Wood**

**General**

The sapwood of Giant Chinkapin is narrow and light brown and is not distinguishable from the heartwood except the latter can be tinged or striped with pink. It is fine grained, soft and brittle, with no characteristic odor or taste.

**Mechanical Properties (2-inch standard)**

	Specific gravity	MOE X10 <sup>6</sup> lbf/in <sup>2</sup>	MOR lbf/in <sup>2</sup>	Compression		WML <sup>a</sup> in-lbf/in <sup>3</sup>	Hardness lbf	Shear lbf/in <sup>2</sup>
				Parallel lbf/in <sup>2</sup>	Perpendicular lbf/in <sup>2</sup>			
Green	0.42	1.02	7,000	2,030	490	9.5	600	1,010
Dry	0.46	1.24	10,700	4,150	680	9.5	730	1,260

<sup>a</sup>WML = Work to maximum load.

<sup>b</sup>Reference (59).

**Drying and Shrinkage**

Type of shrinkage	Percentage of shrinkage (green to final moisture content)		
	0% MC	6% MC	20% MC
Tangential	7.4	–	–
Radial	4.6	–	–
Volumetric	13.2	–	–
Reference (59)			

**Kiln Drying Schedules:** No information available at this time.

**Working Properties:** No information available at this time.

**Durability:** No information available at this time.

**Preservation:** No information available at this time.

**Uses** Paneling, tool handles, furniture, novelties, fuel wood.

**Toxicity:** No information available at this time.

**Additional Reading and References Cited (in parentheses)**

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