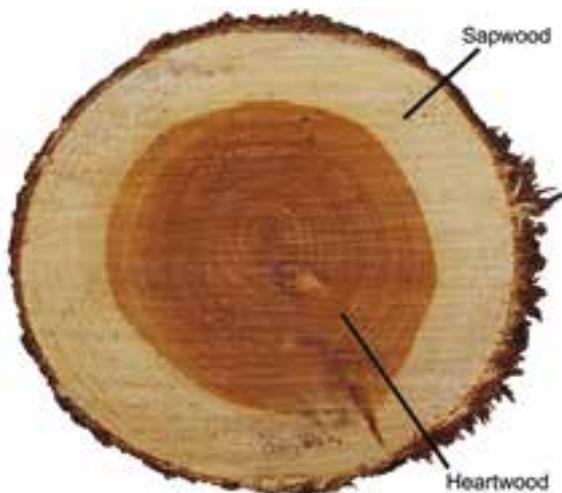


Treatment specs of new eucalyptus hybrids



An academic study is being undertaken by the South African timber industry to determine if the current specifications for the treatment of eucalyptus poles are still relevant for new eucalyptus hybrids.

“The hybrids were cultivated in a bid to cope with climatic changes, to ensure quicker growth of the trees, and to prevent biological attack,” says Dolphin Bay’s Managing Director, Bertus Coetzee. “Interestingly, they were introduced for the pulp industry, which uses most of the wood grown in plantations, rather than the timber industry.”

The research comes amid concerns about the new hybrids’ varying ‘sapwood ratios’.

“The ‘sapwood ratio’ is the proportion of the total volume of the tree that is sapwood. These are the soft, outer layers of a tree which contain living cells and can absorb chemical preservatives. It is important for treaters to know this ratio so that they are able to calculate the optimal strength of their CCA solution.

“Heartwood, on the other hand, is the

denser inner portion of a tree in which the cells have died. It provides structural support to the growing tree, and is mainly found in older trees. By its nature, heartwood is protected from most biological attacks, and cannot absorb preservatives.

“Sapwood, alone, constitutes the treatable zone of eucalyptus poles; and the sapwood ratio of the new hybrids that have been introduced in recent decades is different,” says Coetzee.

He adds that the fact that the specifications are being reviewed in South Africa, prompts a realisation that the broader industry, in other African countries, should also review specifications.

“There are many specifications authorities in the various African countries, and we believe that in many cases, the suitability of these specs for the changing eucalyptus species has not been assessed.”

In the light of these realisations, Coetzee says Dolphin Bay has informed wood treaters of the potential hazards of neglecting the sapwood ratio of eucalyptus poles, and

recommended a possible way forward.

“The ultimate aim of our efforts is to help develop cutting-edge standards which we hope will ultimately be incorporated into legislation. The sustainability of our industry depends on us getting it right.”

Dolphin Bay has received many queries from timber treaters about what sapwood is, and how to determine the correct sapwood retention, in relation to the treatment of eucalyptus poles. These questions are very important, as the answers have a direct bearing on the optimal treatment of timber. This means that the sapwood, alone, constitutes the treatable zone of eucalyptus poles.

In the light of these realisations, Dolphin Bay has published another edition of Industry Note, to inform wood treaters of the potential hazards of neglecting the sapwood ratio of eucalyptus poles, and to recommend a possible way to proceed.

For more information, contact Tracy Britz at tracy@hwb.co.za or on +27 21 421 0430.

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SUDOKU NO 120

Complete the grid so that every row across, every column down and every 3x3 box is filled with the numbers 1 to 9. That’s all there is to it! No mathematics are involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. For an introduction to Sudoku see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudoku>

		3						
		6	1			2		
			4			9		3
		2						
7						5		
		5	7				8	1
	1				9			6
9					6		4	
5			8	4				

**Solution
for SUDOKU
119**

4	8	3	9	7	6	5	2	1
2	5	9	3	1	8	6	4	7
7	1	6	4	2	5	3	9	8
6	2	5	8	4	7	1	3	9
3	7	8	1	9	2	4	5	6
9	4	1	5	6	3	8	7	2
8	9	2	6	3	4	7	1	5
1	6	4	7	5	9	2	8	3
5	3	7	2	8	1	9	6	4