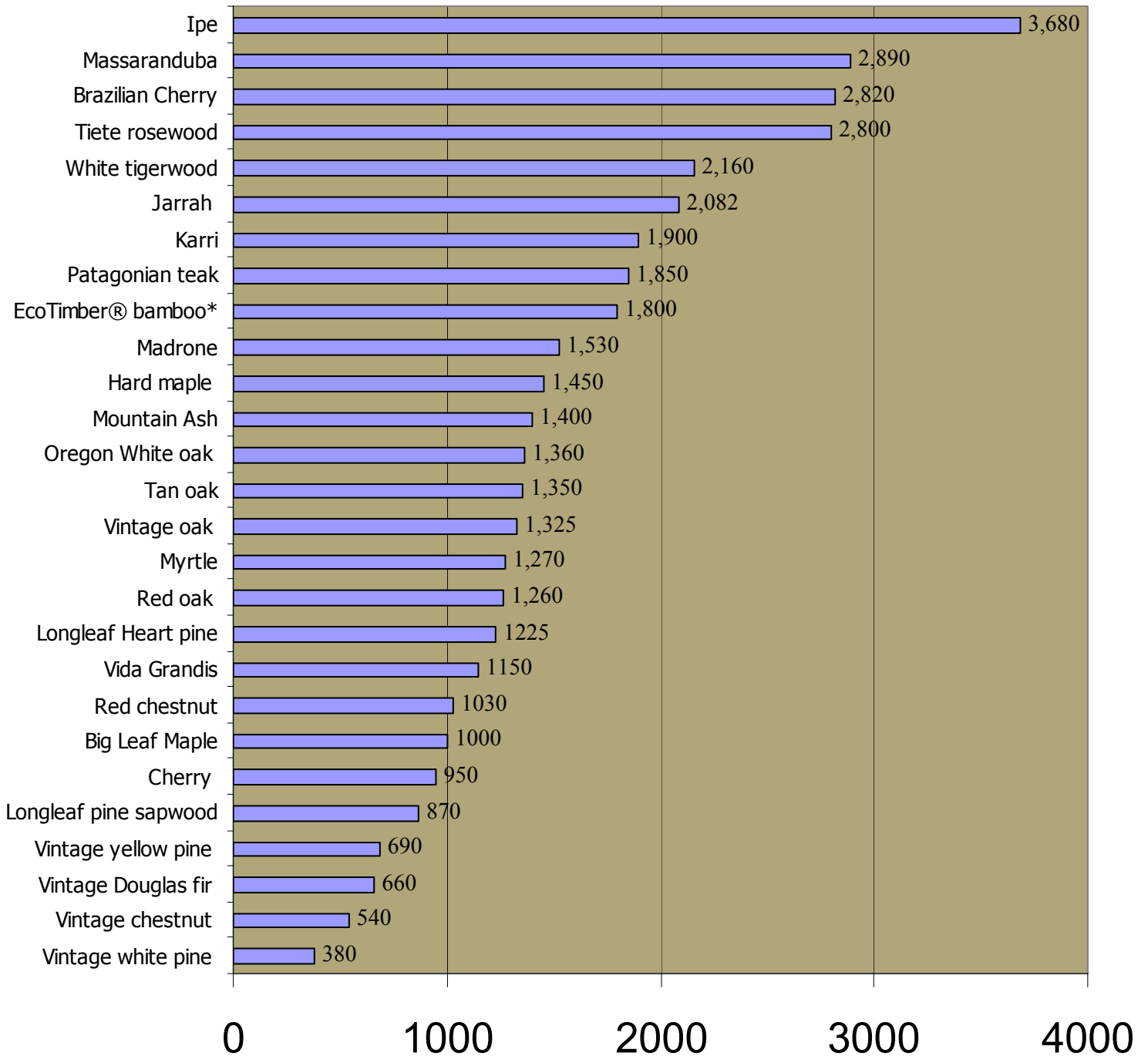


Janka scale



Janka test (ASTM D 1037-7): Hardness is expressed numerically as the pounds per square inch of pressure required to sink a .444 inch steel ball one-half its diameter into the surface of the wood. The test results indicate a given wood's ability to withstand dents and impact, and hence are an important factor in judging its utility as flooring.

*Bamboo's hardness depends on the grain orientation and color chosen. Vertical grain bamboo is ~ 5% harder than horizontal grain, and the natural color is ~ harder than the caramelized. EcoTimbers® bamboo flooring ranges from 1360 to 1800.

The hardness of cork is rarely discussed because it is so different from wood flooring materials. Its Janka rating is 200, but that doesn't accurately reflect its durability. Its softness seemed like a problem when I dropped a wood sample on it, and the corner of the sample cut into the flooring. I went to show our flooring installer the cut a few months later and couldn't find it; the wound had "healed" without a trace.