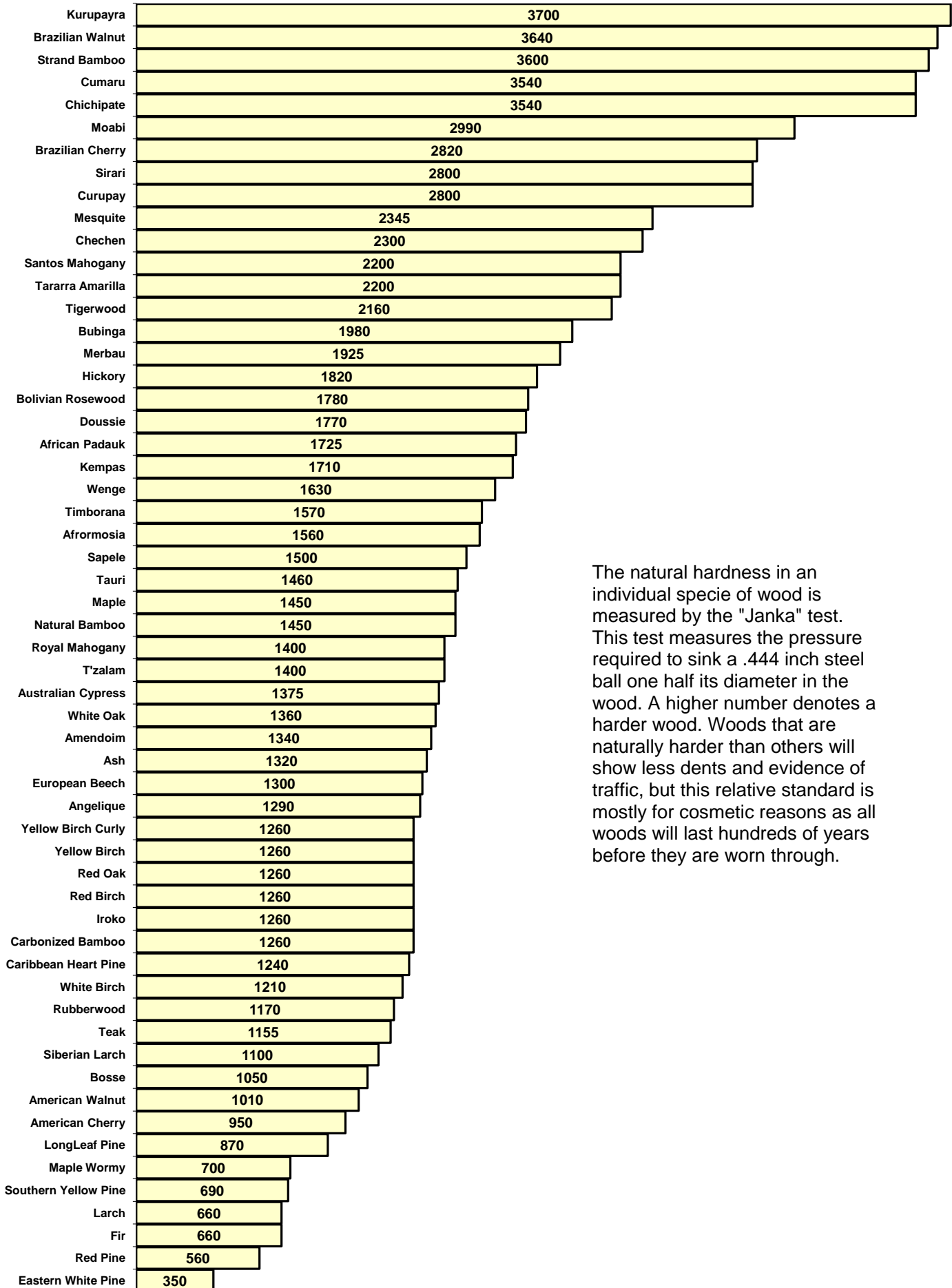




WOOD HARDNESS



The natural hardness in an individual specie of wood is measured by the "Janka" test. This test measures the pressure required to sink a .444 inch steel ball one half its diameter in the wood. A higher number denotes a harder wood. Woods that are naturally harder than others will show less dents and evidence of traffic, but this relative standard is mostly for cosmetic reasons as all woods will last hundreds of years before they are worn through.