

A modern living room with a fireplace, a sofa, and a coffee table. The fireplace is lit, and there is a stack of firewood next to it. The room is bright and cozy.

# The Ultimate Guide to **Wellington** Firewood

A homeowner's playbook for a warmer, cleaner, and safer winter.

# Mastering the Unpredictable Winter



Wellington and the Kapiti Coast demand sustained indoor warmth to combat cool, damp nights



Your fireplace is only as effective as the fuel you feed it.

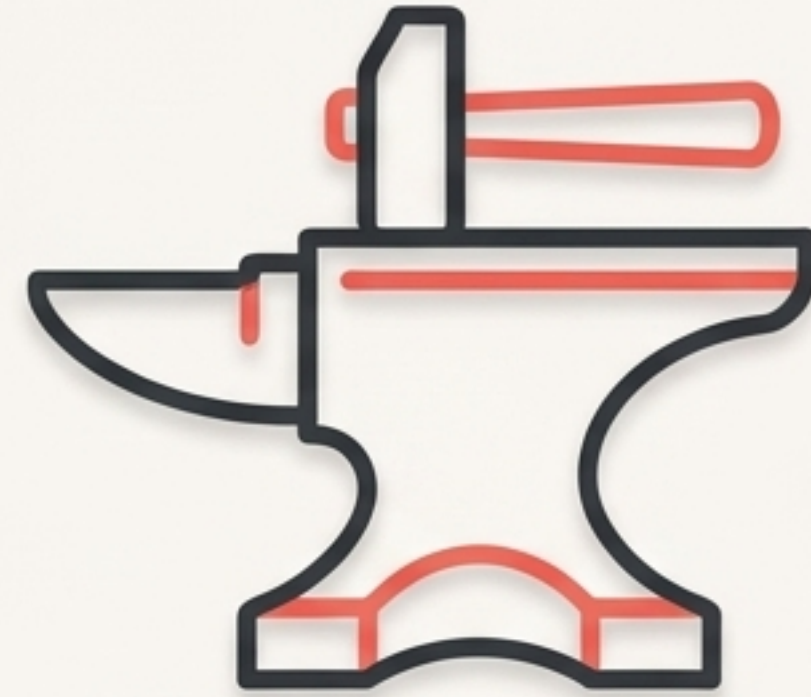
The wrong wood wastes money, creates smoke, and damages your chimney. The right wood delivers clean, efficient, all-night heat.

# Wood Density Dictates Your Fire's Performance



## Softwoods

- Coniferous evergreens.
- Less dense, lighter weight.
- Ignite quickly, burn fast, produce immediate bursts of heat.



## Hardwoods

- Deciduous trees.
- Denser and heavier.
- Harder to ignite, burn much slower, produce consistent, sustained heat over hours.

# The Perfect Mix for a Roaring Fire



## 1 Start Soft.

Use pine or boxwood to quickly establish a roaring flame and a hot bed of embers.

## 2 Finish Hard.

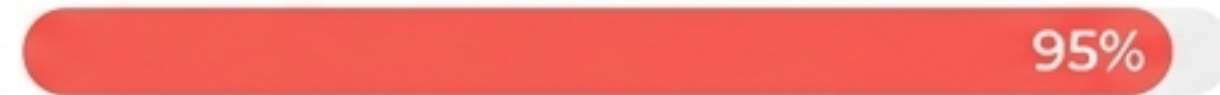
Once the embers are glowing, add dense wood like gum or manuka for a slow, hot burn that lasts through the night.

# The Heavyweights: Gum & Wattle

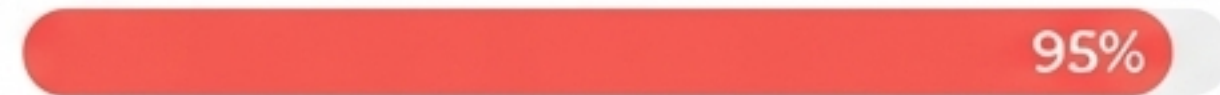
## Gum

### Burn Meters

Heat Output



Burn Time



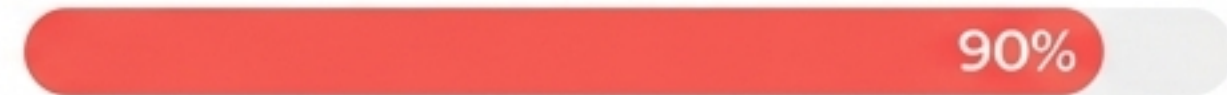
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Originally from Australia. Extremely dense. Burns twice as long as pine. Requires a very hot ember base to ignite.

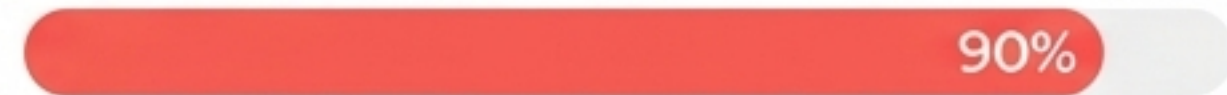
## Black Wattle

### Burn Meters

Heat Output



Burn Time



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Excellent alternative to gum. Slightly less dense but delivers exceptional, slow-burning heat for long winter nights.

# The Native Powerhouses: Manuka & Kanuka

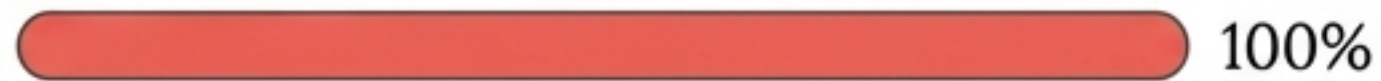
These native species are renowned for their incredible firewood properties.

## Manuka

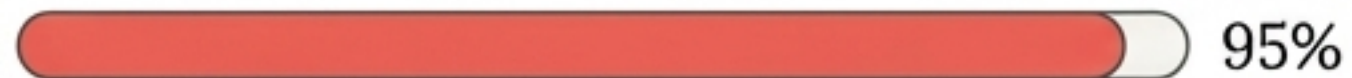


### Burn Meters

Heat Output



Burn Time



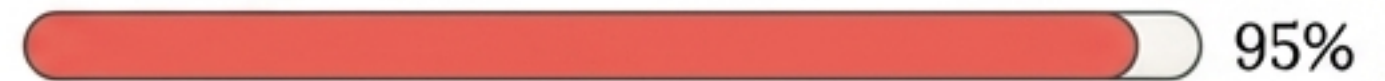
- Produces intense heat with long-lasting embers.
- Ideal for keeping the house warm overnight.

## Kanuka

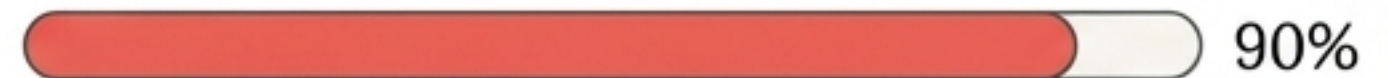


### Burn Meters

Heat Output



Burn Time



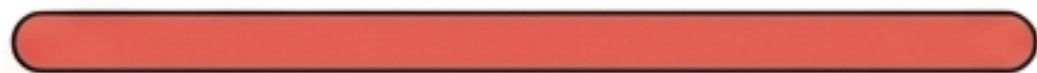
- Leaves very little ash behind.
- Features a flaky bark that serves as excellent natural kindling.

# The Quick Starters: Pine & Douglas Fir

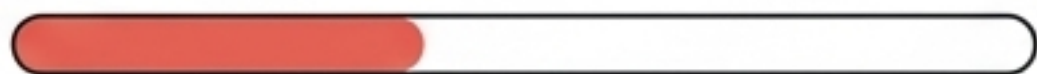
## Radiata Pine

### Burn Meters

Ignition Speed 100%



Burn Time 40%



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The New Zealand household essential. Extremely easy to light, moderate heat output, dries quickly. The ultimate kindling wood.

## Douglas Fir

### Burn Meters

Ignition Speed 85%



Burn Time 60%



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The reliable all-rounder. Uniquely sheds water well, making it great for damp winters. Easy to split, low ash, and very few sparks.

# The Medium-Density All-Rounder: Macrocarpa

A fast-growing NZ native that bridges the gap between softwoods and hardwoods.

## Key Traits:

Excellent heat output, longer burn than pine, highly sustainable.

**Crucial Warning:** Known to spark and pop heavily. It must only be used in enclosed woodburners, never in open fires.



# The Strictly Prohibited List



## Old Man Pine

Trees over 25 years old contain massive resin levels, causing severe creosote buildup and thick smoke.



## Wet / Green Wood

Wastes energy evaporating moisture, produces extreme smoke, and clogs flues.



## Treated Wood

Painted, stained, or pressure-treated wood releases harmful toxic chemicals into your home and neighborhood.



## Driftwood

Contains ocean salt and contaminants that corrode and permanently damage your woodburner.

# The 20% Moisture Rule

"Seasoned" wood simply means firewood that has been properly dried to a moisture content below 20%.

## Benefits of Seasoned Wood:

- ✓ Ignites faster
- ✓ Burns significantly hotter
- ✓ Produces zero thick smoke
- ✓ Prevents dangerous chimney blockages



# The 4-Point Seasoning Test



## Look

Dull, faded, or grey color with deep radial cracks at the ends of the logs.



## Listen

Produces a distinct "hollow clunk" when two pieces are knocked together.



## Feel

Noticeably lighter in weight compared to freshly cut green wood.



## Smell

Lacks the strong, fresh, sappy "woody" odor.

# Mastering the Woodshed



## Open Airflow.

Leave the sides exposed to the wind and sun to continuously draw moisture out of the stack.

## Covered Roof.

Protect the top from rain using a solid structure or a securely tied tarpaulin.

## Off the Ground.

Stack on a pallet to prevent ground moisture from seeping up into the bottom logs.

# The Creosote Threat



## Definition:

Burning wood produces creosote—a sticky, highly flammable tar that coats the inside of your chimney.

## The Causes:

Burning wet, unseasoned wood or highly resinous wood (like Old Man Pine) drastically accelerates creosote buildup.

## The Danger:

Excessive buildup restricts airflow and is the leading cause of dangerous chimney fires.

# Happy Chimney, Happy Wallet



## Reduced Sweep Frequency.

Hardwoods and properly seasoned wood burn cleanly, meaning you can extend the time between professional sweeps.



## Easier Cleaning.

Minimal, dry buildup takes a chimney sweep a fraction of the time to clear, saving you money on labor.



## Complete Peace of Mind.

Clean flues eliminate the risk of chimney fires, protecting your home, family, and insurance policy.

# Your Winter Playbook



**Buy Smart.** Source green wood in the summer to save money, or buy verified seasoned wood in the winter for immediate use.



**Mix Your Fuel.** Keep plenty of softwood (Pine) for easy starting, and hardwood (Gum/Manuka) for overnight heat.



**Protect Your Investment.** Monitor safety in heater, and  
**Protect Your Investment.** Stack off the ground, cover the top, and schedule an annual chimney sweep for maximum safety.

# Ready for a warmer winter?

From finding the perfect woodburner to scheduling your annual chimney sweep, our local experts are here to help.

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