



BEECH

BEECH, *Fagus* L. The species found in Iran was previously presented as the same as the common European beech, *F. sylvatica* L. (e.g., Parsa, IV, p. 1332, VIII, p. 80; Sā'ī, I, p. 164; and Bahrāmī, I, p. 413), but later investigation has proved it to be *F. orientalis* Lipsky = *F. sylvatica* L. var. *macrophylla* Hohen. = *F. Sieboldi* Koehne, etc. (Mobayyen, II, p. 53; see also Tābetī, p. 352). Generally speaking, it grows in Caspian highland forests from Āstārā to Gorgān. The following areas or localities are specifically mentioned in our sources: Āstārā, from Asālem to Rašt, Kargānrūd and other points in Ṭavāleš, Mount Dorfak, Manjīl, Rāmsar, Tālār valley, Nūr, Kojūr, Kalārestāq, Šahsavār, along the road to Čālūs, Palangčāl (Nowšahr), Šavādkūh, Fīrūzkūh, Gadūk, and Nekā valley. Indigenous names are: *qezel-goz* (Āstārā), *qezel-āgāj* (Kargānrūd), *rāš* (Gīlān, Rāmsar, Šahsavār, Kojūr, Kalārdašt), *rāj* ('Ammārlū, Manjīl), *alūš/alāš/ālāš/aleš* (Ṭavāleš, Mt. Dorfak), *čeler/čelar/čalar* (Nūr), *mers* (Māzandarān), etc. Modern Iranian botanists tend to refer to this tree as *rāš*.

Easy to plane, *rāš* timber is used more than any other wood for making doors, windows, inexpensive furniture, chests, cradles, ladders, banisters, beams, farmers' tools, wooden shovels, patterns, etc. It is also valued as firewood and for making charcoal.



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