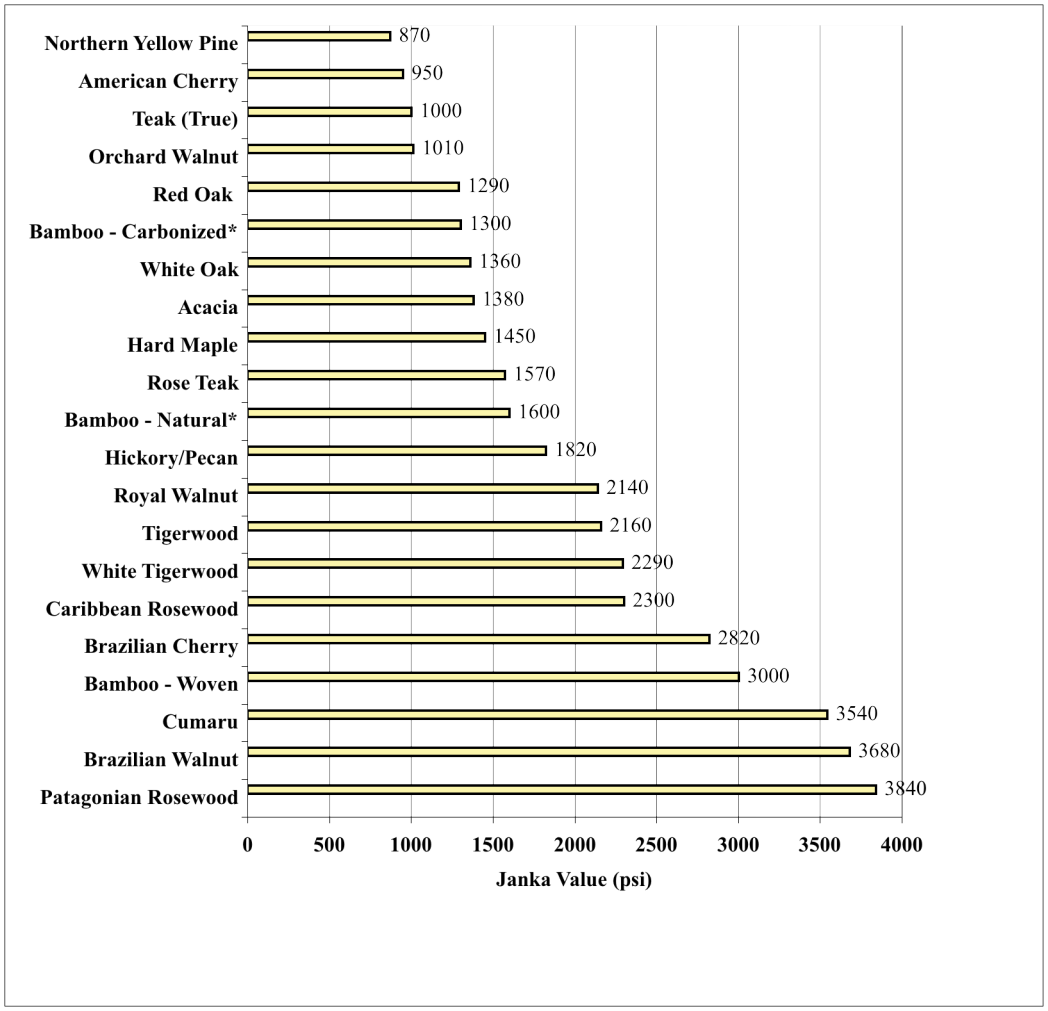
Janka Hardness Test Values for Various Woods

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 wood. This is called the Janka Test (ASTM D 1037-7). 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.



***** The Janka hardness of traditional Bamboo flooring tends to vary a bit, as with some wood species. Natural Bamboo can range in hardness from 1350 to 1600 psi, and Carbonized (aka Amber) Bamboo can range from 1100 to 1300 psi. It is important to note that some Bamboo flooring manufacturers make dubious claims about Bamboo's hardness. While it is true that Natural Bamboo can be as hard or harder than Maple, Carbonized Bamboo is significantly softer than Maple because the Bamboo is weakened by the carbonization process. Also, some sellers of Bamboo advertise Janka values that they obtain by testing the "knuckle" or knot of the Bamboo plant, which occupies a small fraction of the surface of the floor. The knuckle is generally much harder than the rest of the floor, so these values can be very misleading.