Acacia gerrardii

Indigenous

Common names:	Ateso: Eminit Luganda: Munyinya Runyankore: Mutongore.
Ecology:	Common in wooded grassland and woodlands of Nyabushozi
	County of Mbarara District and in North Eastern Region,
	1,300-2,000 m. Sometimes riverine in arid and semi-arid areas.
Uses:	Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, posts, carvings, medicine (bark),
	fodder, bee forage, nitrogen fixation.
Description:	A shrub or tree to 15 m, somewhat flattened or irregular crown.
	BARK: rough, grey-brown, grooved; branchlets hairy.
	THORNS: very short, straight or hooked, tips brown. LEAVES:
	bipinnate, 5-12 pairs pinnae, leaflets noticeably hairy.
	FLOWERS: round, cream heads, stalks hairy. FRUIT: brown
	pods, smooth grey-brown with darker dots, veins clear, slightly
	curved, to 22 cm long, about 2 cm wide, in clusters; seeds flat,
	about 1 cm long.
Propagation:	Seedlings (sow seeds in pots), direct sowing at site.
Seed:	No. of seeds per kg: 10,000-15,000.
treatment:	immerse seed in hot water, allow to cool and soak for 24 hours.
storage:	seed can be stored for a long time if kept insect free. Add ash to
	reduce insect damage.
Management:	Fast growing where groundwater is available, otherwise slow.
	Coppicing.
Remarks:	Because of its thorns the tree should not be planted near
	homesteads. In Nyabushozi, A. gerrardi is often left for shade on
	farms and rangeland when other vegetation is cleared.

