

## Acacia nilotica (A. arabica)

*Mimosoideae*

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Arusha:** ol giloriti, ol kiloriti; **Eng:** Egyptian thorn, scented-pod acacia; **Gogo:** mfuku; **Iraqw:** kantzi; **Kuria:** michame; **Nyam:** mdubilo, mgunga; **Nyat muhinko;** **Rangi:** kihungawisu, kihungawiswa, kijame; **Samb:** mgelegele, muela; **Suku:** mdubilo; **Swah:** mgunga; **Zigua:** mgungankundu.
- Ecology:** Common in arid and semi-arid areas in Africa. A very variable species with several subspecies, including three in Tanzania. They grow on a wide variety of soils from coastal sandy ones to black cotton soils, 0-1,800 m.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, poles, tools, carvings, medicine (roots), stimulant (bark), fodder (leaves, pods), bee forage, nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, soil improvement, shelterbelts, gum, tannin, dye, live fence, toothbrushes.
- Description:** Usually a small tree to no more than 6 m. Often branched from the base, crown rounded. **BARK:** brown-black, rough, fissured, young shoots red-brown, hairy. **THORNS:** **greyish, to 10 cm, straight, usually shorter.** **LEAVES:** compound grey-green, new growth in dry season, 2-11 pinnae with few to many leaflets, small glands visible along leaf stalks. **FLOWERS:** fragrant, **round heads, bright yellow.** **FRUIT:** straight or curved pods, **17 cm long, to 2 cm wide,** coast variety is dark, shiny, inland variety **green and fleshy, soft, hairy, with fruity smell.** Some varieties have pods that are constricted between the large seeds like a necklace.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 6,000-11,000. Seed attacked by beetles in pods; separate through immersion in water — bad seeds float. Germination rate 60-90%.
- treatment:** not necessary for fresh seeds. For stored seeds only, nick or soak in hot water, allow to cool, and soak for 24 hours,
- storage:** seed stores well if kept cool, dry and insect free.
- Management:** Medium to fast growing on good sites; lopping, pollarding.
- Remarks:** Seedlings do not compete well so weeding is essential. Wood is tough, termite resistant. Can form thickets.

