

# Acacia seyal

*Mimosoideae*

Indigenous

Common names: **Chag:** mwera; Eng: white thorn; **Fiome:** fuguma; **Hehe:** mubata, mubaya; **Gogo:** mdejedeje, mlaka, mnomko; **Jita:** ilula lyape; Kere: ilula; **Goro:** fughumo; **Iraqw:** karbu; Nyam: vulula, vulula-wape; **Nyat:** mlula; **Nyir:** mlula mnykundu; Rangi: mweda **Suku:** ilula lyape, ilula lyelu.

Ecology: This is a typical tree of semi-arid zones widespread in tropical Africa with various varieties. In Tanzania it is found on seasonally flooded black cotton soils, in river valleys and wooded grasslands, 600-1,800 mm.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, poles, posts, medicine (bark, gum), fodder (leaves), bee forage, nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, windbreak, gum, tannin (bark), dye (bark), live fence.

**Description:** A small- to medium-sized tree 3-12 m, irregular umbrella crown, often many trees together. **BARK:** distinctive powdery **white to pale green or orange-red**. **THORNS:** **diverging pairs, white, stout, to 8 cm** sometimes smaller or none. Variety *fistula* bears whistling thorns (ant galls) at the base. **LEAVES:** compound with 3-7 pairs of pinnae, bearing a gland on the leaf stalk, leaflets tiny. **FLOWERS:** very many, **yellow, in large round heads** over 1 cm across, fragrant. **FRUIT:** narrow, curved, shiny light brown pods, in bunches, slightly constricted between seeds, splitting on the trees, 7-20 cm long.

**Propagation:** Seedlings.

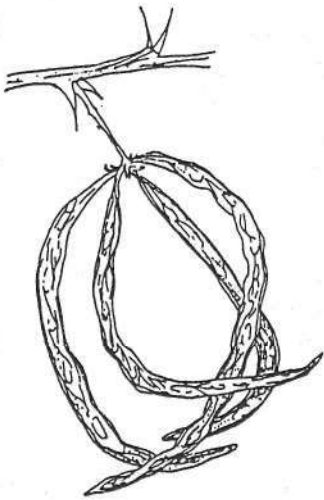
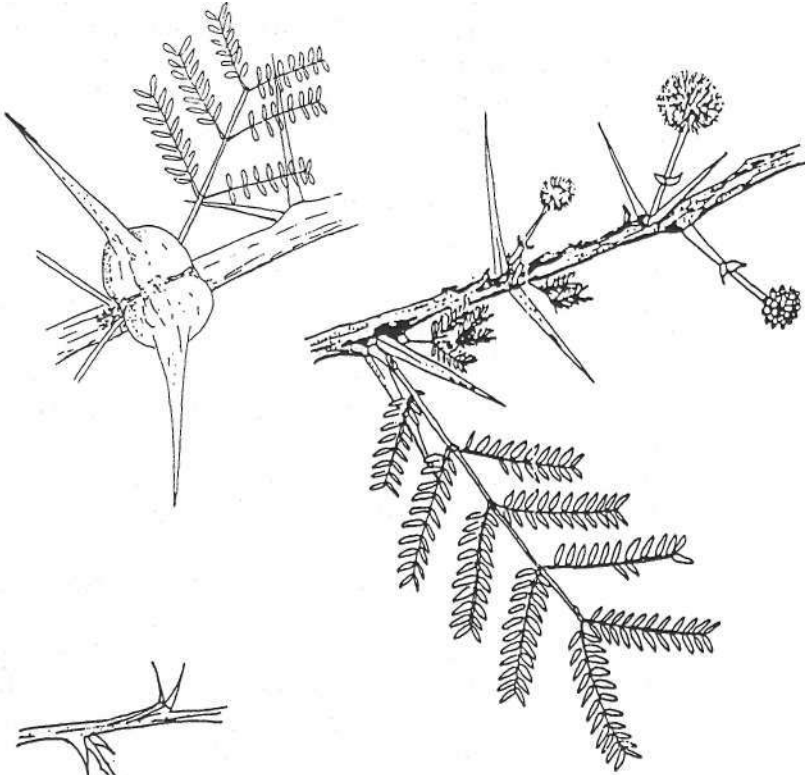
**Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: about 20,000.

**treatment:** not necessary for fresh seed; for stored seed nick or soak in cold water for 24 hours.

**storage:** seed can be stored for several years if kept cool, dry and insect free.

**Management:** Medium to fast growing; lopping, pollarding, coppicing.

**Remarks:**



young tree

