

# Acrocarpus fraxinifolius

*Caesalpinaceae*

India, S.E. Asia

**Common names:** **English:** Indian ash, shingle tree.

**Ecology:** Originally introduced in Uganda in arboretums, later planted throughout Uganda. It is most suitable for moderate altitudes with red soil and a moist climate, but can also stand some drought, 1,000-1,500 m.

**Uses:** Firewood, timber (furniture, tea boxes), roof shingles, beehives, bee forage, shade, ornamental, mulch, windbreak.

**Description:** A large tree reaching 60 m. The bole is often buttressed but then has a long straight trunk. It is an evergreen tree except in areas with a marked dry season. **BARK:** pale grey and smooth, trunk and branches bear leaf scars. **LEAVES:** **large, bipinnate in distinctive fan shapes to 1 m, young red leaves** look like blossoms, leaflets oval, wavy and pointed to 14 cm. **FLOWERS:** appear on the tree when it is leafless, up to **20 dense heads hang down from branch ends**, each 12 cm long, dripping nectar from the **red-green flowers**, short lived. **FRUIT:** **big bunches of dark brown pods** persist on the tree. They split easily to release seed.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing at site.

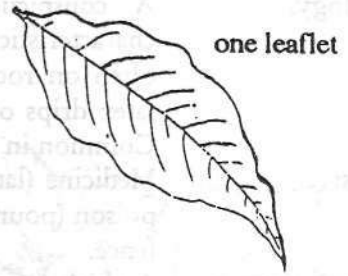
**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 24,000-29,000. Germination is sporadic, 10-30 days after good pretreatment.

**treatment:** nick or immerse in hot water, allow to cool and soak for 24 hours.

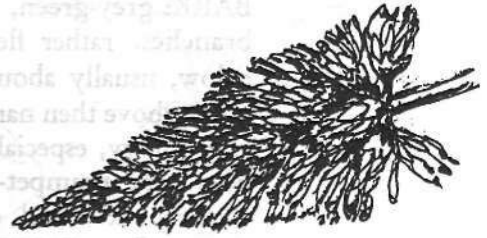
**storage:** seed loses viability rapidly.

**Management:** Very fast growing; pollarding, coppicing (only while young). Rotation for fuel 8-10 years, timber 30-40 years.

**Remarks:** It should not be planted near houses as dry branches drop off. Competes with crops if grown in fields. It grows extremely fast in Uganda, especially near Lake Victoria, where it was planted originally in Entebbe Botanic Gardens. (In Kenya it was used as a shade tree for coffee and tea.)



one leaflet



flower head

