

Afzelia africana (Pahudia africana)

Caesalpinaceae

Indigenous

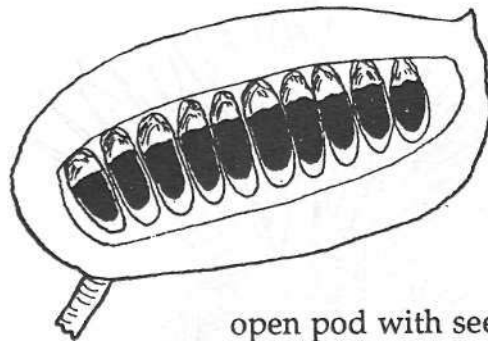
- Trade name:** Afzelia.
- Common names:** **English:** Afzelia, lucky-bean tree **Lugbara:** Meli **Luo:** Beyo **Luo A:** Baa, beyo **Madi:** Azza.
- Ecology:** A tree occurring from Senegal to the Sudan and Zaire. In Uganda, it grows in wooded grassland with higher rainfall and can also be found on rocky ground or in gallery forest. It is abundant in the North West Region in forest on Mt. Kei and the Otze Forest.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, posts, shade.
- Description:** A large tree, usually deciduous 6-30 m with **thick branches** to a flat or rounded crown, the bole with short thick buttresses. **BARK:** pale grey to dark brown, with **large pieces flaking off**. **LEAVES:** compound pinnate on stalks to 32 cm, **2-5 pairs of leaflets**, which are oval, 5-15 cm long, the **tip clearly pointed**. Leaflets have a short twisted stalk. **FLOWERS:** sweet scented in branched heads about 10 cm long. Each flower has **only 1 petal**, bilobed and clawed, **1-2 cm long**, green-white with pink lines. The 2 plus 2 grey-green sepals have short hairs. A leafy structure (bracteole) almost covers the flower buds. **FRUIT:** large woody **straight pods** 10-20 cm long and 5-8 cm across. The conspicuous black seeds, each to 3 cm long, are half covered with a soft **bright orange aril cup** and lie in white pith.
- Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seeds in pots), wildings.
- Seed:** Should be collected during March-April. Susceptible to insect attack.
- treatment:** the aril should be removed and nicking anywhere on the seed may hasten germination.
- storage:** Seeds can be stored for a long time in an air-tight container at room temperature. Add ash to reduce insect damage.
- Management:** Coppicing, pollarding. Needs to be protected from fire. Slow growing.
- Remarks:** The timber is of good quality and can be recommended for all uses. Can be planted for erosion control on slopes, and for improvement of degraded savannahs.



flower head



enlarged
flower



open pod with seeds

Mexico

Common names: **English:** Sisal **Luganda:** Kigoogwa.

Ecology: Grows on a wide range of soils from sandy loam to clay, withstands waterlogging and is drought hardy. In Uganda it has been grown as a plantation crop around Butiaba old pier and Masindi Port. Sisal is also commonly planted for live fencing throughout the country.

Uses: Firewood (flowering stem), live fence, strong ropes, sacking, mats (fibres).

Description: A woody herb with whorls of spiny leaves at ground level. The flowering stem reaches up to 6 m. **LEAVES: sword-shaped, to 2 m long**, edges spiny, with a **sharp dark brown tip**. **FLOWERS: a flowering "pole" has small "green-yellow flowers** on side branches. **FRUIT:** dry capsules with seed but little is viable. Some flower buds become thick and hard and will root when planted. They are called **"bulbils"** and may **develop among the flowers**. Suckers are produced at the base of the leaves.

Propagation: Suckers and bulbils.

Seed: Little viable seed.

treatment:

storage:

Management: Cut the large leaves to grow a suitable hedge. Fast growing.

Remarks: Drought hardy and termite resistant. The whole plant dies after flowering, which normally occurs at the age of seven years. Leaves for fibres can be cut after about two years.

