

Brazil. Caribbean

Trade name: Cashew nut.

Ecology: A tree introduced to most parts of the tropics as an important cash crop grown in plantations. In Uganda, the species has been introduced in trials in Masindi, Soroti, and Kumi Districts. It has also been planted with crops like coffee and banana or as a shade tree in the drier districts of Uganda. It can be intercropped with vegetables. The tree may be part of a mixed orchard with mangoes, bananas, coconuts and citrus.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, posts, nuts, fruit (juice, liqueur, wine, jam), medicine (resin), shade, ornamental, soil conservation, windbreak, nut shell oil (varnish, inks, tiles, brake linings), gum (for book binding).

Description: A tree to about 10 m with a dense crown, but usually smaller. **BARK:** rough dark brown. **LEAVES:** simple, alternate, leathery dark green, oval, **15 cm long, 8 cm wide, rounded tip, wavy.** **FLOWERS:** in terminal clusters, **small and star like, pink-cream coloured,** fragrant. **FRUIT:** hard, **kidney-shaped nuts attached to the base of shiny orange yellow "cashew apple" or "bibo"** (swollen flower stalk). Nuts fall to the ground when ripe.

Propagation: Seedlings (sow seeds in pots), wildings, direct sowing at site, grafting.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 150-300. Germinate in 10-12 days.

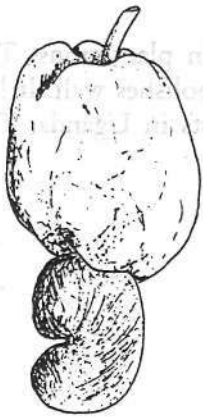
treatment: immerse seed in cold water and soak for 24 hours, not necessary for fresh seeds.

storage: seed should not be stored for more than about nine months. Dry nuts in the sun for several weeks before storing or sowing.

Management: Slow growing; lopping, coppicing.

Remarks: The outer covering of the nuts contains a poisonous oil, so the thin skin must be removed by hand or roasted or burnt before the nuts can be eaten. Deshelling nuts is difficult and processing is best done in a factory. It would be an ideal crop for the dry north of Uganda.

Common name: ...
 Ecology: ...
 Uses: ...
 Description: ...
 Propagation: ...
 Seed: ...
 treatment: ...
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 Management: ...
 Remarks: ...



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