

India

Common names: **English:** Jackfruit **Luganda:** Yakobo, kifenensi.

Ecology: Originates from Asia, probably in the forests of the Western Ghats in India. Today it is widespread in other parts of the tropics and most popular in Sri Lanka. Introduced into Uganda in the early 1940s at Entebbe Botanic Garden, it has become very popular and is now commonly planted in Eastern, Central and Western Regions. Near Lake Victoria seeds germinate and young trees sprout spontaneously so that the species has become invasive in secondary vegetation. It requires well-drained, deep and fertile soils and will not tolerate drought or waterlogging.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, carts, lorry bodies, doors), food (fruit, seed), medicine, fodder (leaves, rind), shade, gum.

Description: A medium-sized tree with thick branches, to 25 m. The **bole is short**, cylindrical and straight, up to 1 m in diameter in old specimens, branching less than 2 m from the ground. **BARK:** rough bark on the bole, grey but smooth on the branches. **LEAVES:** **glossy, oval to 15 cm long** and 10 cm wide. **FLOWERS:** separate male and female, all very small but the female flowers have a stronger smell. The **flowers are borne on the trunk** or large branches where the fruit—the largest known—develops. **FRUIT:** massive and irregular "cauliflowery", **yellow-green compound fruit with a spiky rind**, reaching a record 20 kg in weight and 1 m in length. The flesh is sweet and edible but definitely an acquired taste. Seeds, up to 5 cm, are edible when roasted.

Propagation: Direct sowing at site, wildings. Vegetative propagation (bud grafting, air layering) to select desirable characteristics. Direct sowing at site preferable due to early growth of the taproot.

Seed: Seeds are hand picked individually from the fruit flesh after drying.

treatment: no pre-sowing treatment needed.

storage: the seed is only viable for a month because it is very oily.

Management: For good fruit productivity a spacing of 10-12 m is needed. Fast growing; most cultivars fruit in about 8 years. Cut back fruiting twigs after harvesting.

Remarks: Suitable around compounds as a shade tree or support for climbing crops such as yams and passion fruit. Commonly intercropped with coffee and banana in Uganda. The fruit may be eaten in times of drought when other crops have failed.

