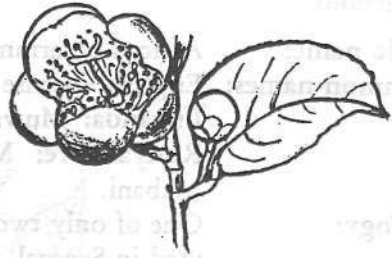
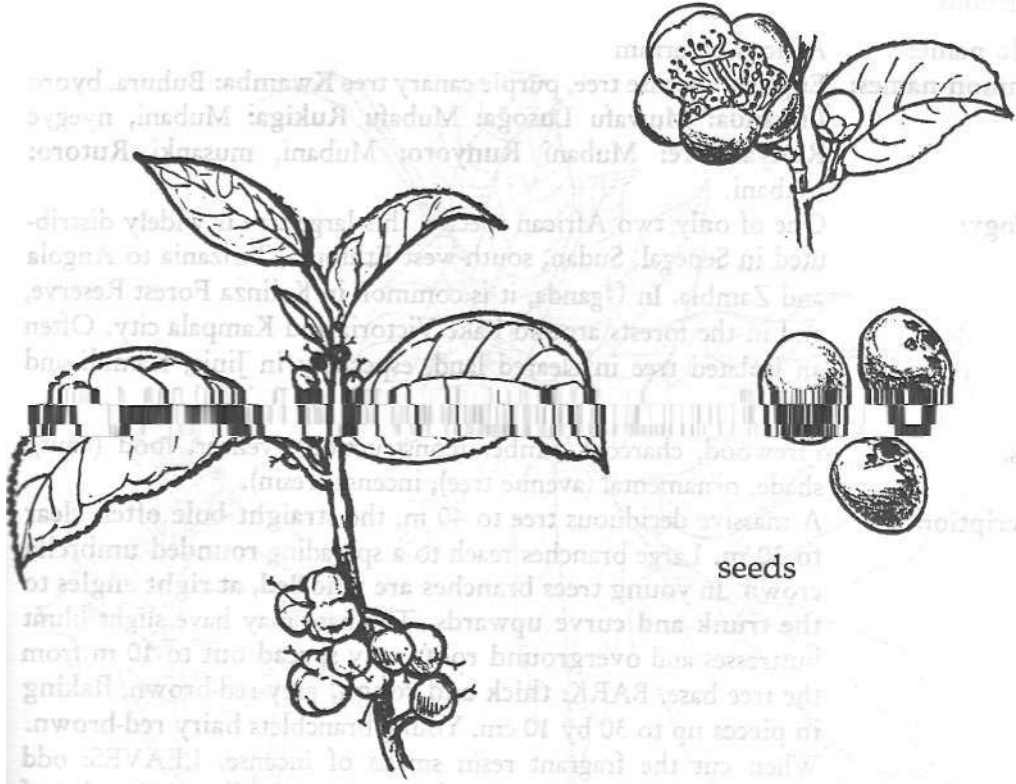


China

- Trade name:** Tea.
- Common names:** **Swahili:** Mchai.
- Ecology:** Native to China and grown there for centuries, tea is commonly cultivated in higher-altitude wet areas of the tropics, including East Africa. It requires adequate soil moisture throughout the year (at least 100 mm per month) and needs irrigation to survive dry periods or the leaves may be lost. Tea was introduced to Uganda as a cash crop in areas with a well-distributed rainfall averaging 1,500-1,750 mm per annum in Kabarole, Mubende, Kiboga, Bushenyi, Masaka and Mukono Districts. Used locally as a drink it is now resuming importance as an export cash crop.
- Uses:** Firewood, drink (leaves).
- Description:** A large **evergreen shrub** or tree to 5 m or more. In cultivation normally pruned to a plucking "table" 0.5-1.5 m. **LEAVES:** long oval, pointed and leathery, usually 5-10 cm long, **shiny dark green above, edge finely toothed**. **FLOWERS:** **white and fragrant, usually solitary** (2-4), 2-4 cm across with 5 petals. **FRUIT:** a 3-angled capsule with 3 seeds, surrounded by the persistent sepals.
- Propagation:** Normally propagated by cuttings. Vegetative propagation is best as the genetic variation can be controlled and preferred clones used. Mother trees are allowed to grow for about six months after pruning, thus providing long stems for cuttings. Single leaf internodes are usually used. The top two or three internodes must be discarded because they are too short, so must any part towards the base of the stem which has flaky bark because cuttings from this part do not strike readily. Cuttings are raised in a rooting medium.
- Seed:**
- treatment:**
- storage:**
- Management:** Tea bushes are trimmed when the leaves are picked. Coppicing at about five-year intervals for rapid growth of leaves.
- Remarks:** Tea is grown in plantations at a spacing about 1.5 x 0.75 m or 1.2 x 0.9 m. The use of tea for fuel began in Uganda after the years of political turmoil when tea plantations were neglected resulting in many plantations of young trees. When rehabilitation of the plantations started, income was generated by the sale of firewood.



seeds



two leaves and a bud

