

Indigenous

Trade name: African canarium

Common names: **English:** incense tree, purple canary tree **Kwamba:** Buhura, byoro **Luganda:** Muwafu **Lusoga:** Mubafu **Rukiga:** Mubani, nyegye **Runyankore:** Mubani **Runyoro:** Mubani, musanki **Rutoro:** Mubani.

Ecology: One of only two African species, this large tree is widely distributed in Senegal, Sudan, south-west Ethiopia, Tanzania to Angola and Zambia. In Uganda, it is common in Kalinza Forest Reserve, and in the forests around Lake Victoria and Kampala city. Often an isolated tree in cleared land, especially in Jinja, Kamuli and Iganga Districts, rare in Ankole and Kigezi. Rainfall 900-1,400 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (construction), veneer, food (fruit), shade, ornamental (avenue tree), incense (resin).

Description: A massive deciduous tree to 40 m, the **straight bole often clear to 30 m**. Large branches reach to a spreading **rounded umbrella crown**. **In young trees branches are whorled, at right angles to the trunk and curve upwards**. The base may have slight blunt buttresses and **overground roots may spread out to 10 m** from the tree base. **BARK: thick and rough**, grey-red-brown, **flaking in pieces** up to 30 by 10 cm. Young branchlets **hairy red-brown**. When cut the fragrant resin smells of incense. **LEAVES:** odd pinnate tufted at the ends of branches, usually 6-10 pairs of leaflets plus 1, each with a **short stalk**, oval to oblong, stiff, **long pointed to 15 cm, base rounded**, about 15 pairs side veins, **vein network dense below**, surface dull green-brown with a few hairs but more hairy below, especially on veins. **FLOWERS: cream-white in axillary sprays to 30 cm long**, 3 petals and a **3-part calyx, funnel shaped with rust-red hairs** inside and out. **FRUIT: smooth and oblong, soft and purple when ripe, 2.5-4.0 cm long. A 3-ridged stone** inside as long as the fruit, eventually splits to release 3 seeds.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings, direct sowing on site.

Seed: The fruit fall to the ground when ripe. Collect together and allow the outer coat to decompose, then separate the stones, immerse in hot water, allow to cool and soak for 24 hours, can be stored for a long time.

treatment:

storage:

Management: Slow growing.

Remarks: Does not compete with crops. Has been planted in rows for reforestation. In Jinja, Kamuli and Iganga the tree is much liked for its fruit which are lightly boiled and the outer coat eaten with a sprinkle of salt. The wood is suitable for construction work but needs to be seasoned with care. It is an excellent shade tree and the resin is used as an incense.

