

Australia, New Guinea

Common names: **English:** Swamp she oak.

Ecology: A native of Australia from New South Wales to Queensland in a narrow coastal belt and also New Guinea. *Casuarina glauca* is most common along the edges of swampy flats, near estuaries and along tidal reaches of rivers. It has been the most successful *Casuarina* used in Israel. In Uganda the species is still under trial in the highlands of Kabale District.

Uses: Firewood, poles, nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, windbreak.

Description: An evergreen tree 12-15 m (but up to 20 m) with a **long straight bole** with a maximum diameter of 60 cm, the upright branches forming a narrow crow. The trunk may be buttressed and fluted. **BARK:** on trunk flaky, rough and thick, dark grey and hard, but branches more grey-brown and smooth. **LEAVES:** drooping branchlets quite **grey-green** (glauca) and relatively thick with characteristic "joints" widely spaced, each a ring of about **15 scale-leaves** (coarser and larger than in *Casuarina equisetifolia*). **FLOWERS:** male clusters with pollen along 2-4 cm of the tips of some branchlets. Rounded female "cones" on stalked heads are hairy when young, about 6 mm with dark red stigmas. **FRUIT:** a woody multiple **capsule, "cone-like"**, 1-2 cm long and 10–15 cm wide, each individual fruit sharply pointed and opening to release 1 pale winged nutlet.

Propagation: Seedlings, root suckers.

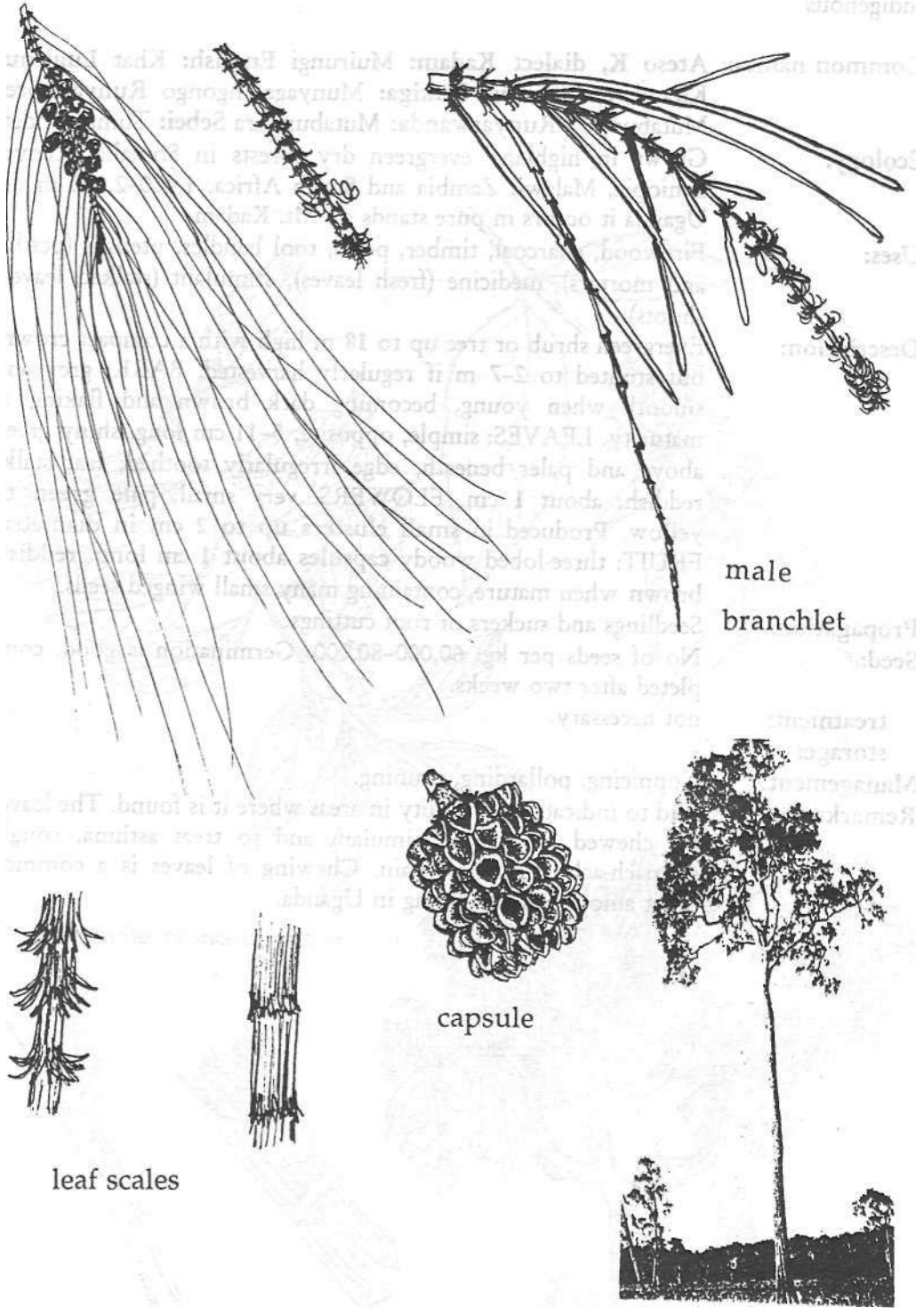
Seed: Collected from cones of mature trees. Cones should be collected before they open and left to release seed over polythene sheeting, not necessary.

treatment:

storage:

Management: The species is on trial and methods of management are yet to be developed.

Remarks: While the original habitat of the species is saline soil and low altitude, in Uganda it is showing promise at high altitude and on free-draining soils. It may be particularly useful as it can be fast growing on difficult sites and fix nitrogen. It can reproduce very vigorously from root suckers. The timber is hard and strong and a good fuel but not durable in the ground. *C. equisetifolia* has been used in Uganda for a long time but grows at much lower altitudes.



male
branchlet

capsule

leaf scales