

Citrus limon

Rutaceae

S.E. Asia

Trade name: Lemon.

Common names: **English:** Lemon **Luganda:** Nimawa, nnimu.

Ecology: The lemon originated in south-eastern Asia. It was known to the Arabs in the tenth century and reached Europe by the thirteenth century. Columbus introduced it to Haiti on his second voyage in 1493. The Arabs introduced it into East and Central Africa. It is a tree suited to sandy or loamy well-drained soils. Lemon trees are commonly grown in Uganda and will grow at higher altitudes than some of the citrus but require well-distributed rainfall and high temperatures to fruit well. Humidity increases the risk of pests and diseases.

Uses: Firewood, food (fruit, pickles from the rind).

Description: A small tree usually 3-6 m, rather open with stout stiff thorns. Young plants are more thorny. **LEAVES:** paler green than most citrus, oval and sharp tipped, 5-10 cm long, **edge toothed, leaf stalk very short, its wing very narrow, and a clear joint to the leaf blade** (articulation). **FLOWERS:** produced at all seasons, **white, solitary** or clustered, petals thick and fragrant, **back of petals purple-red so buds appear purple**. **FRUIT:** **about 7-8 cm long, ovoid, pointed both ends**, yellow or green when ripe, rough or smooth varieties, **flesh pale yellow with much juice** which is acid to bitter. Few seeds.

Propagation: Seed, seedling and grafting.

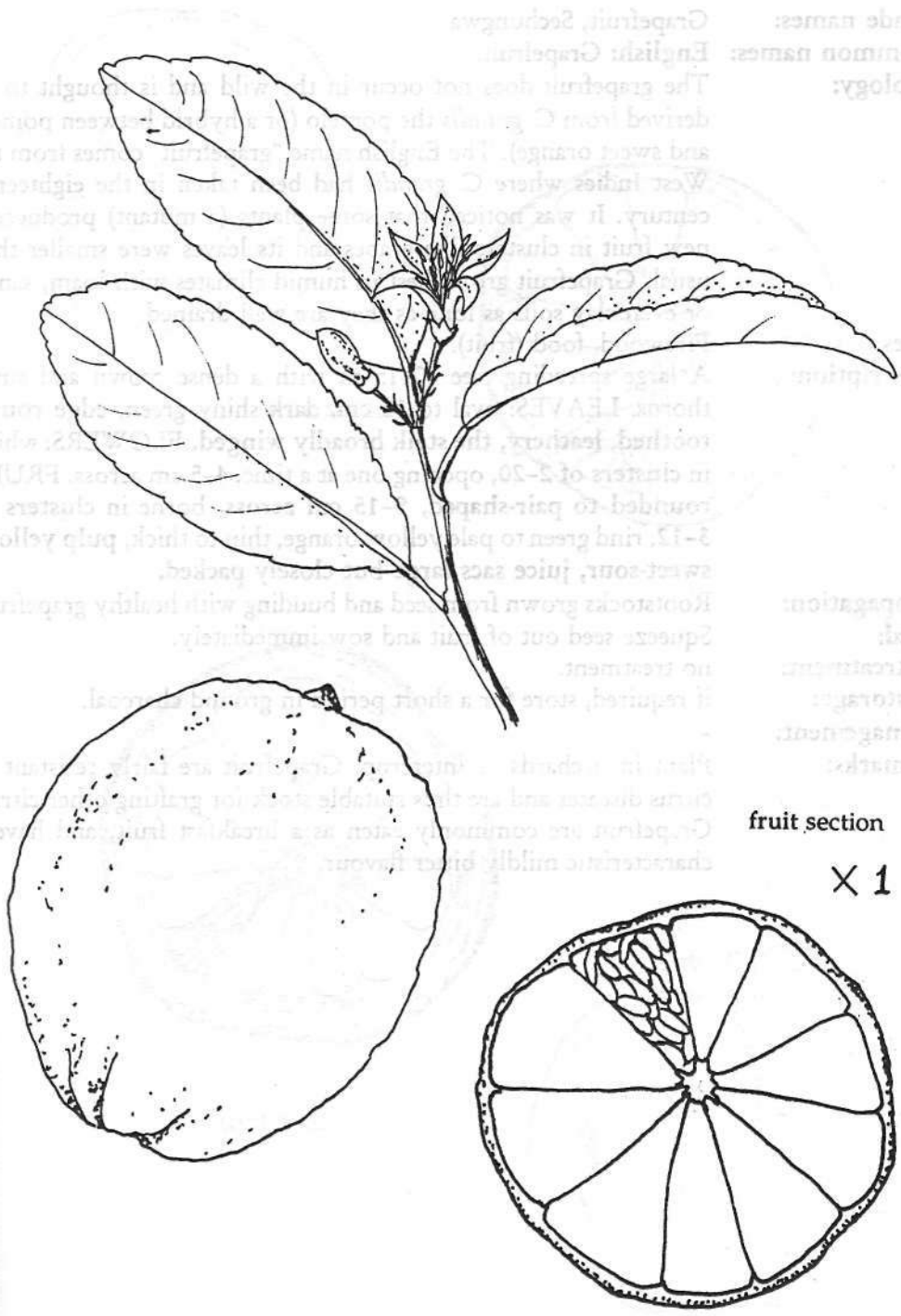
Seed: The seeds are crushed out of the fruit, dried gradually and sown immediately.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: store in ground charcoal for a few weeks if necessary.

Management: The lemon has proved its worth in Uganda: it does not suffer from the diseases common to other citrus and is a source of root stock material for budding of other Citrus species.

Remarks: Can be established as plantations or intercropped. Lemons are widely used in the preparation of various kinds of drink and in cookery generally. They are used in cosmetics and for the production of lemon oil, citric acid and pectin. Candied peel is made from the rind which is also one of the best sources of vitamin C.



fruit section

× 1