

Citrus limon

Rutaceae

India

English: Lemon
Kunda: Mandimu
Nyanja: Ndimu
Senga: Mandimu

Ecology: A tree originally from Assam in India and suited to sandy or loamy well-drained soils. Lemon trees will grow at higher altitudes than some other citrus but, like all citrus, they require a high temperature to fruit well and well-distributed rainfall. High humidity increases the risk of pests and diseases.

Uses: Firewood (twigs, dead branches), **food** (fruit, jam, pickle), **drink**, flavouring (peel), medicine (juice, peel, roots, leaves), ornamental.

Description: A tree to 8 m, rather open, branches with stout, stiff thorns. Young plants are more thorny, especially near the centre of the tree. **LEAVES:** paler green than most citrus, sharp-tipped, quite large, **edge toothed**, leaf stalk very short, wing very narrow, clear joint to blade. **FLOWERS:** white, solitary, 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, **flesh pale yellow with much juice** which is acid to bitter. Few seeds.

Propagation: Seedlings, budding, grafting.

Seed: -

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Can be stored.

Management: Mixed planting with other trees that could serve as a support.

Remarks: Lemons ripen during most of the year. They grow easily, bear fruit quite quickly and withstand drought. Rough lemon provides the best rootstock for budding and grafting lemons, limes, grapefruit and tangerines.

