

Citrus paradisi

Rutaceae

Malaysia, Polynesia

Common names:

Eng: grapefruit; Swah: mbalungi.

Ecology:

The grapefruit does not occur in the wild and is thought to be derived from *C. grandis*, the pomelo. The English name "grapefruit" comes from the West Indies where *C. grandis* had been taken in the eighteenth century. There it was noticed that the fruit were borne in clusters like grapes. Grapefruit grows best in humid climates in deep rich soil. In Tanzania they grow well in the coastal lowlands.

Uses:

Food (fruit).

Description:

A large tree with a dense conical to rounded crown and small thorns. **LEAVES: ovate to 18 cm, dark shiny green, edge round-toothed, leathery, stalk broadly winged.** **FLOWERS:** white, in clusters of 2-20, opening one at a time. **FRUIT:** rounded to pear-shaped, **9-13 cm across**, borne in **clusters** of 3-12, rind pale yellow-orange, thin to thick, pulp yellow, sweet-sour (bitter), **juice sacs large** but close packed.

Propagation:

Seed info.:

treatment:

storage:

Management:

Remarks:

C. grandis (English pummelo or pomelo) has the same Swahili name as *C. -paradisi*. The branchlets and flower stalks are hairy, and the large flowers and fruits are quite characteristic. A fruit may be 10-20 cm in diameter and weigh up to 9 kg; borne singly. The rind is very thick and pulp yellow-pink, tough and solid with little juice. It is grown commercially in Thailand, Malaysia, China, etc.

