

West Indies

Trade names: Grapefruit, Sechungwa.

Common names: **English:** Grapefruit.

Ecology: The grapefruit does not occur in the wild and is thought to be derived from *C grandis* the pomelo (or a hybrid between pomelo and sweet orange). The English name "grapefruit" comes from the West Indies where *C grandis* had been taken in the eighteenth century. It was noticed that some plants (a mutant) produced a new fruit in clusters like grapes and its leaves were smaller than usual. Grapefruit grows best in humid climates with loam, sandy or even clay soils as long as they are well drained.

Uses: Firewood, food (fruit).

Description: A large spreading tree 10-15 m with a dense crown and small thorns. **LEAVES:** oval to 18 cm, dark shiny green, **edge round toothed, leathery, the stalk broadly winged.** **FLOWERS:** white, in **clusters** of 2-20, opening one at a time, 4-5 cm across. **FRUIT:** **rounded to pair-shaped, 9-15 cm across**, borne in **clusters of 3-12**, rind green to pale yellow-orange, thin to thick, **pulp yellow, sweet-sour, juice sacs large but closely packed.**

Propagation: Rootstocks grown from seed and budding with healthy grapefruit.

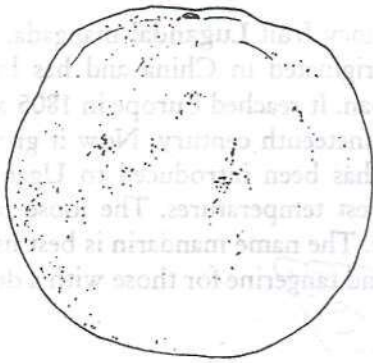
Seed: Squeeze seed out of fruit and sow immediately.

treatment: no treatment.

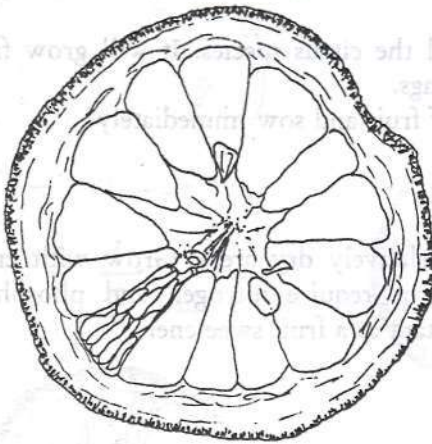
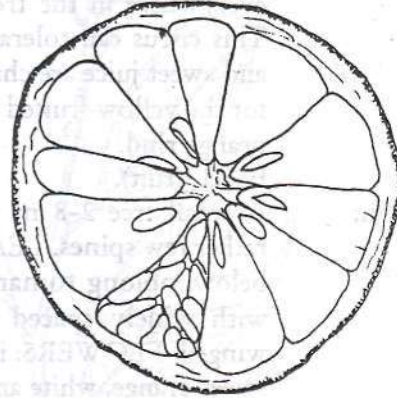
storage: if required, store for a short period in ground charcoal.

Management:

Remarks: Plant in orchards or intercrop. Grapefruit are fairly resistant to citrus diseases and are thus suitable stock for grafting other citrus. Grapefruit are commonly eaten as a breakfast fruit, and have a characteristic mildly bitter flavour.



fruit section



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