

China, Japan

Common names: **English:** Loquat.

Ecology: A small evergreen tree very widely planted in its native China, Japan and northern India, and also in the Mediterranean. Mainly planted in cities and towns, 1,500-2,400 m. Requires moderate to heavy rainfall but is drought resistant once established. Trees growing in the highlands of Fort Portal, Kabale, Kisoro, Rukungiri and Mbale Districts produce good large fruit, but at lower altitudes around Kampala the fruit are very small.

Uses: Firewood, poles, posts, carving-, food (fruit), bee forage, mulch, ornamental, shade, windbreak, jam, syrup (fruit).

Description: A dense evergreen shrub or **small tree to 7 m, branching close to the ground.** **BARK:** grey and rough, young stems hairy. **LEAVES:** stalkless, **dark green, shiny above, woolly hairs below**, about 35 cm long, the tip pointed and the edge prickly, toothed, young leaves paler, foliage in **upward pointing tufts.** **FLOWERS:** **cream-white, scented**, in pyramidal heads at the end of branches, each flower 2 cm across, flower **buds covered with golden-brown hairs.** **FRUIT:** in loose clusters, **yellow, egg shaped**, usually 2-7 cm long, acid-sweet flesh around a few large brown-black seeds.

Propagation: Direct sowing on site, seedlings (sow seed in pots), wildings and grafts.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: about 600.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: seed does not store well. It should be sown while still fresh.

Management: Fast growing; pruning.

Remarks: Seeds are poisonous and should be removed before cooking. Grafted trees, when available, remain smaller but make stronger growth and produce fruit faster. Grow as ornamental or in an orchard.

