

Grevillea robusta

Proteaceae

Eastern Australia

Common names: **English:** Grevillea, silky oak.

Ecology: Widely planted and popular all over Africa, this tree grows on fairly well drained and neutral to acidic soils but does not tolerate waterlogging or heavy clays. In Uganda, it is planted with tea, coffee and rubber as boundaries to plantations and as avenues in towns. It is presently being promoted in agroforestry projects.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, poles, timber (furniture), fodder (leaves, low quality), bee forage, soil conservation, ornamental, shade, wind-break.

Description: A semi-deciduous tree to 20 m or more with a straight trunk and angular branches. An oval leafy crown. **BARK:** dark grey, rough, vertically grooved. **LEAVES:** compound, **fern-like, very divided**, leathery pale green above, **silver-grey below**. **FLOWERS:** very many, in **one-sided golden-orange spikes**, much nectar which attracts bees and sunbirds. **FRUIT:** dark brown capsule, about 1 cm, with a slender beak, splitting to set free 2 winged seeds.

Propagation: Wildings, seedlings.

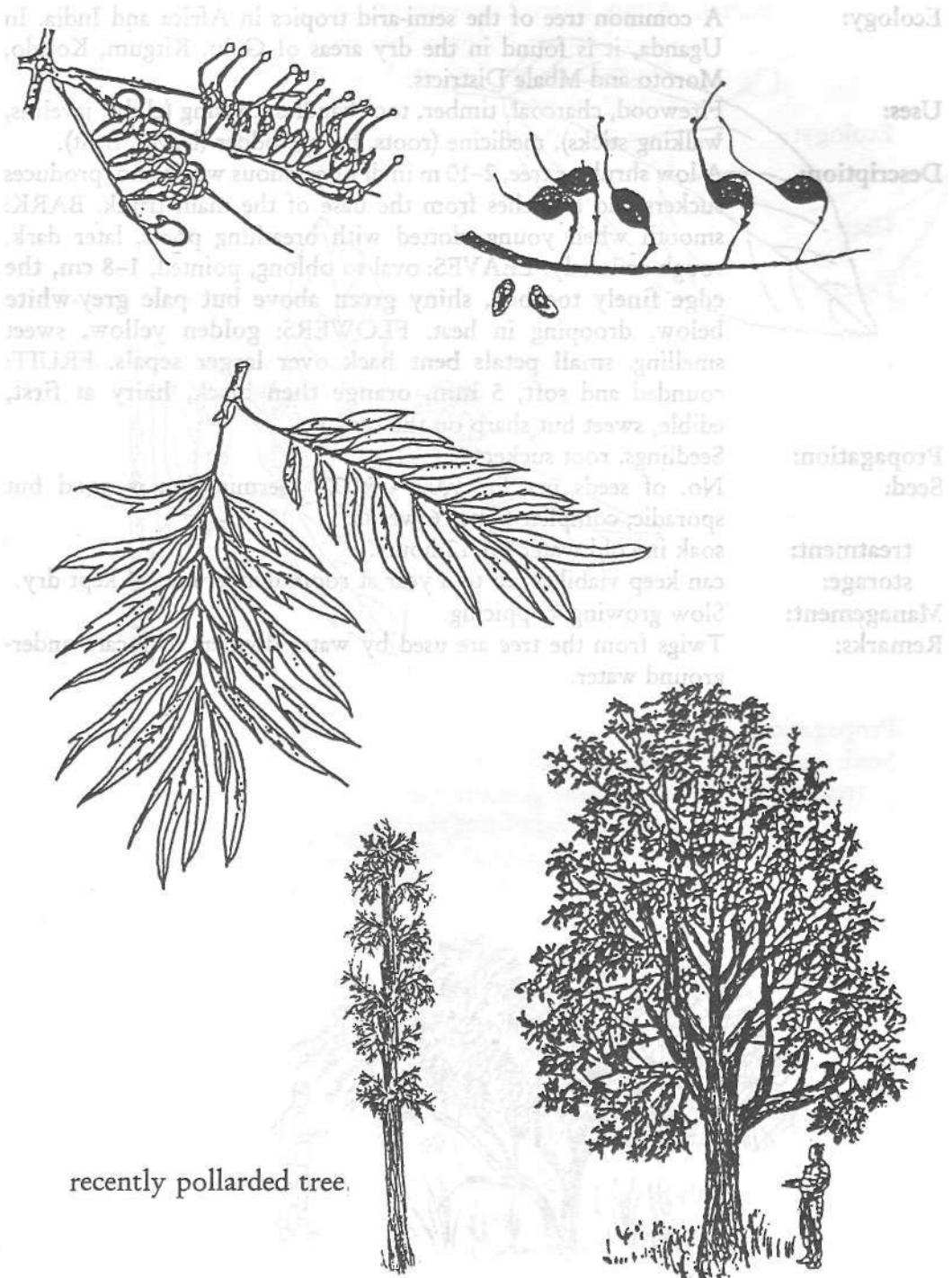
Seed: The species is a prolific seeder. Seed is difficult to collect. Germination rate 30-90 %. No. of seeds per kg: about 100,000.

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Seed can be stored for up to three months.

Management: Moderate to fast growing; pollarding, lopping, coppicing and pruning. Only young trees coppice well.

Remarks: The tree grows well with food crops if managed to reduce shade. The timber is hard and has an attractive grain—the red-brown colour and silky surface being like that of the true oak, *Quercus*. *Grevillea* is not recommended for woodlots.



recently pollarded tree.