

## Hagenia abyssinica (H. anthelmintica)

*Rosaceae*

Indigenous

Common names: Arusha: alchani-lengai, lengijabe, ol kijabe; Eng: hagenia; Bena: mfoono; Chag: ihanga, mlaagi, mlanga, mwalanga, mwanga; Hehe: mdobole; Maasai: alchani-lengai, ngivavi songejaye; Meru: mlanga; Nyak: mtulanya, mturunga. nturunga; Nyiha: mkumburu, mturunga; Samb: luziluzi, mrosirosi.

Ecology: A tree confined to East Africa extending into Ethiopia. In Tanzania it is common in the mist belt, often above the bamboo zone, in mountain areas. Reported to be indifferent to most soils provided they are well drained. Its climatic range is transitional and wet montane, 2,000-3,000 m, but it will grow at lower altitudes.

Uses: Firewood, timber (furniture, flooring, general purpose), carving, medicine (bark, roots, flowers), mulch, ornamental, soil conservation.

Description: A tree to 20 m, the crown leafy and rounded, usually with thick branches. BARK: red-brown, flaking irregularly, branchlets covered in silky brown hairs and ringed with leaf scars. LEAVES: compound to 40 cm in large terminal tufts, leaflets bright green, silvery hairs below, red and sticky when young, leaf edge toothed and fringed with hairs, stalk winged, hairy. FLOWERS: large attractive masses to 60 cm, female heads pink-red, male heads more feathery, orange-white. Male and female trees. FRUIT: small, dry, one-sided.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 176,000-200,000.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: seed can be stored for up to 6 months.

Management: Regeneration by seed (naturally), slow-growing; coppicing.

Remarks: *Hagenia abyssinica* is widely used in the southern highlands of Tanzania as a timber tree for all purposes. The wood is dark red and hard but attacked by borers. Not competitive with crops if managed to prevent shading. It constantly sheds leaves forming a carpet of dry leaves below the tree. Dry female flowers are used as a deworming treatment—anthelmintic.

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