

Macadamia tetraphylla

Proteaceae

Northern Australia

- Common names: Eng: macadamia nut.
- Ecology: An evergreen tree introduced in the coffee-growing areas of the Tanzanian highlands for its valuable nuts.
- Uses: Timber, charcoal (shells), food (nuts), windbreak. ornamental, bee forage, oil (used in cosmetics).
- Description: A low-branching evergreen tree to 15 m. BARK: grey, smooth. LEAVES: in fours, dull to olive-green, conspicuously wavy, edged with sharp, forward-pointing spines, to 25 cm long, young leaves and shoots pink-red. FLOWERS: in slender, drooping spikes, 25 cm, white or purple, the leaf stalks persist on the tree like stiff threads. FRUIT: a hard round nut, to 3 cm across, the husk drying black, containing a hard shiny brown nutshell. These fall to the ground and are collected for the white kernel seed within.
- Propagation: Grafting, seedlings.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: about 500. Germination is good; up to 80% after 3 weeks.
- treatment: nicking will improve germination.
- storage: can be stored for some years if kept well dry.
- Management: Grafting.
- Remarks: The tree can be intercropped with coffee and food crops. A good cash crop.

