

Mangifera indica

Anacardiaceae

Northern India, Burma

Ar: *Manga*

Bl: *Mangus*

Eng: *Mango*

Km: *Mangusa*

Nr: *Manga*

Sh: *Mangus*

Tg: *Mangus*

Tr: *Mangus*

- Ecology:** One of the most important tropical fruit trees from Asia. In Eritrea, it is widely cultivated in warmer areas. It does not tolerate flooding and prefers sandy-loamy soil which is well drained, but it can do quite well in dry areas. Roots penetrate deeply so rocky subsoil should be avoided. The extensive shallow roots collect water and nutrients in the upper soil levels. It does well from 500 to 1,800 m along the river banks of Anseba, Barka, Mereb-gash and in irrigated horticultural sites.
- Uses:** Firewood, fodder (leaves), **food** (fruit), bee forage, ornamental, **shade**, windbreak, soil conservation, gum.
- Description:** A densely leafy evergreen tree with a trunk soon branching to a rounded crown, usually 10-15 m. **BARK:** Dark brown, cracking with age. **LEAVES:** Dark green, crowded at the ends of branches, to 30 cm long, smelling of turpentine when crushed. Young leaves soft, **copper-coloured** and **hanging limply**. **FLOWERS:** Numerous and small in **pink-brown pyramidal heads**. Pollination by flies and other insects. **FRUIT:** **Fleshy 8-15 cm**, the **skin green-red-yellow**, the flattened "stone" is fibrous and woody around the large seed.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing, grafting.
- Seed:** Germination rate 60-90 %. No. of seeds per kg: around 50.
- treatment:** Not necessary, but nicking the hard seed coat helps germination.
- storage:** Seed can be stored for only one month at room temperature. For best results, fresh seed should be used.
- Management:** Lopping, grafting. For quicker growth and early production of fruits, grafted material should be used.
- Remarks:** Favoured varieties have fruits with a good flavour and little fibre. Relatively few flowers are pollinated but even so up to 1,000 fruit develop on a mature tree. Each one has a large seed surrounded by golden juicy flesh, rich in vitamins A and C.

