

Northern India, Burma

Common names: **English:** Mango **Luganda:** Muyembe **Lusoga:** Muyembe **Rukiga:** Muyembe **Runyankore:** Muyembe **Runyarwanda:** Muyembe **Runyoro:** Muyembe **Rutoro:** Muyembe.

Ecology: One of the most important tropical fruit trees brought very early to East Africa. In Uganda, it is widely cultivated in Northern and North Eastern Regions. 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 upper soil levels. Does well from 700 to 1,800 m. Firewood, charcoal, 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 (sow seed in pots), direct sowing at site, grafting.

Seed: Germination rate 60-90%. No. of seeds per kg: +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: Fast growing. Lopping, grafting. For quicker growth and early production of fruits, grafted material should be used.

Remarks: Good 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. Mango is an effective

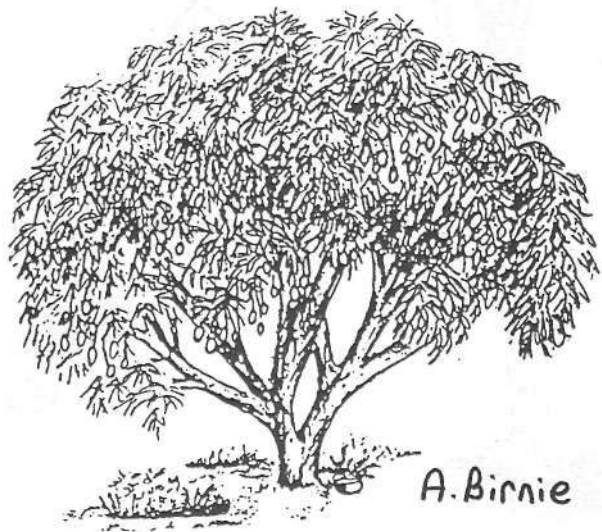
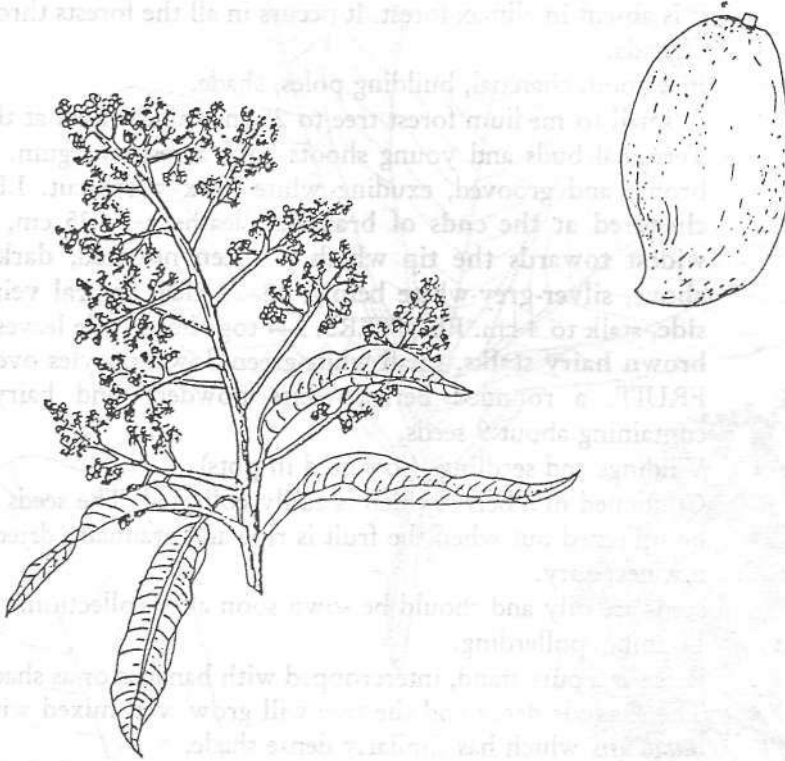
vs.-

firebreak.

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Mangifera indica

Anacardiaceae



A. Birnie