

***Manihot glaziovii***

Euphorbiaceae

**Brazil**

**COMMON NAMES:** **English:** Tree cassava; **Kamba:** Kyanga;  
**Kikuyu:** Kimuanga; **Luo:** Muhogo mar opira; **Swahili:** Mpira.

**DESCRIPTION:** A leafy deciduous tree, rounded, to 8 m.

**BARK:** Pale grey-brown, marked with **horizontal leaf scars**, producing much **white latex** if cut. **LEAVES:** Deep green and soft, often drooping, crowded at the ends of branches, **lobed 3–5 times, even 7 times, on long stalks**. **FLOWERS:** Small, yellow-green. **FRUIT:** Green rounded capsules.

**ECOLOGY:** A small deciduous tree native to Brazil. In Kenya, naturalized in places. Grown in drylands, highlands and lower-altitude areas down to the coast, usually as a shade tree in the homestead. Agroclimatic Zones I–V.

**USES:** Fodder (leaves for goats, used in the coastal areas), shade, ornamental, soil conservation.

**PROPAGATION:** Cuttings. Plant cuttings at an angle and ensure they are not upside down.

**SEED:** Not used for propagation.

**MANAGEMENT:** Fast growing; pollarding and coppicing.

**REMARKS:** In southern Africa (Malawi) the leaves are eaten, prepared like cassava leaves. In other areas the leaves are said to be toxic. The tree was introduced for its good-quality latex, but production proved to be too irregular. This species is related to the cassava (manioc or tapioca), *Manihot esculenta* (syn. *M. utilissima*) also from Brazil and widely grown in Kenya, especially in Nyanza, Western and Coast Provinces. The entire genus, with close to a hundred species, is American.

**FURTHER READING:** Löttschert and Beese, 1983; Mbuya et al., 1994; Noad and Birnie, 1989.

