

Pinus kesiya (*P. insularis*)

Pinaceae

South-East Asia

- Common names:** Eng: kesiya pine; **Swah:** msindano.
- Ecology:** In the natural range it is common in mist belts in high mountain regions of Burma, Thailand and the Philippines, 1,000-2,000 m. It is planted in Central and South Africa but not yet so in Tanzania except on a small scale at Sao Hill and Kawetire.
- Uses:** Firewood, timber, treated poles, pulp wood, resin (bark).
- Description:** An evergreen tree with a straight bole, growing up to 30 m with spreading crown. **BARK:** thick, brown-grey or black and rough. **LEAVES:** needles in **threes, erect, up to 25 cm long, pale green and sharp pointed.** **FRUIT:** brown cones, about 7 cm long on a short stalk.
- Propagation:** Seedlings.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 40,000-50,000. Germination is fair but sporadic. Completed after 2 weeks.
- treatment:** not necessary.
- storage:** can remain viable up to 2 years at room temperature if kept well dry.
- Management:** A fast-growing tree. Planted at spacing of 2.5 x 2.5 m in plantations. Pruning, thinning, fire protection. Rotation period is 40-50 years.
- Remarks:** High potential for large-scale plantations in southern and western miombo forests for production of sawn timber. Seedlings require inoculation with mycorrhiza which help seedlings obtain nutrients in the soil—collect soil near mature mother trees. Moderately resistant to termites, but fire sensitive, this tree takes 25-30 years before it can be harvested as timber.

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