

Pinus kesiya (*P. insularis*)

Pinaceae

South East Asia

English: Pine
Kunda: Paini
Nyanja: Paini
Senga: Paini
Tumbuka: Paini

Ecology: A tree now widely planted in tropical and subtropical regions 1,000–2,000 m. Commonly planted in central and southern Africa. In Zambia, many pine species have been planted on a trial basis but the common ones in Eastern Province are *Pinus kesiya* and *Pinus oocarpa*. *P. kesiya* requires an annual rainfall of 700–1,800 mm and it grows well on deep well-drained soil.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, **timber**, poles, resins (bark).

Description: An evergreen tree with a straight bole and spreading branches; growing up to 30 m high. **BARK:** thick brown-grey and rough. **LEAVES:** needles in **threes, erect, flexible, bright green, long, up to 25 cm and sharp pointed**. **FRUIT:** cones, **reddish brown to about 7 cm** on short stalks.

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 55,000–62,000. Germinates after 10–14 days.

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Can remain viable up to 2 years at room temperature.

Management: Pruning, thinning.

Remarks: The seedlings require inoculation with mycorrhiza in order to grow well. Mycorrhiza, which can be obtained by collecting soil from below mature pine trees, help the seedling to obtain nutrients from the soil. The tree takes 25–30 years before it can be harvested for timber. It is moderately resistant to termites but fire-sensitive. Pines have been planted on a large scale on the Copperbelt for timber production. The firewood and charcoal are not as good as those from most indigenous trees but are still used in the Copperbelt and in Malawi.

