

Pinus oocarpa

Pinaceae

Central America

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

Ecology: An exotic tree from Central America and now widely grown in tropical and subtropical Africa 1,000–2,400 m. Rainfall 750–1,500 mm. Common in regional supply plantations in the country. Grows on light, medium and heavy neutral to slightly acidic soils and tolerates shallow soils.

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

Description: An evergreen coniferous tree up to 25 m high and with a light crown. **BARK:** rough, grey-reddish brown. **LEAVES:** needles in threes, fours or fives, drooping, 15–25 cm long.

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 41,000–55,000. Germinates after 14–21 days.

treatment: Not required

storage: Can retain viability for up to 2 years at room temperature if kept dry.

Management: Pruning, thinning

Remarks: The seedlings require inoculation with mycorrhiza for good establishment, as with *Pinus kesiya*. The firewood and charcoal are not as good as those from most indigenous trees but are still used in the Copperbelt and in Malawi. The species is moderately termite-resistant but fire-sensitive. Matures 25–30 years after planting.

