

Indigenous

**Trade names:** Podo, East African yellow-wood.

**Common names:** **English:** Podo, East African yellow-wood **Kwamba:** Kiringi **Luganda:** Musenene **Lugishu:** Musagali, gumuhalamwa **Luo:** Akikache **Rukiga:** Omuhulire **Rukonjo:** Obwipe **Sebei:** Sitetet.

**Ecology:** The natural range of *P. latifolius* is from Kenya through Central Africa to South Africa. It requires deep, fertile and well-drained soil, usually in wet montane climates, 900-3,200 m. In Uganda, it grows in the Sango Bay and Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forests, the Ruwenzori mountains, Mt. Elgon and the Imatong Mountains (in Kitgum District) which extend into the Sudan.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (joinery wood, panel framing, panels, display cabinets, drawer linings, handicraft), shade (in banana, coffee and cocoa plantations), ornamental (avenue tree).

**Description:** A forest tree to 35 m, **evergreen, conical in shape when young**, the trunk large and buttressed in old trees. **BARK:** red-brown to grey-brown, narrowly fissured, **peeling in long fibrous strips**. **LEAVES:** spirally arranged at the tips of branches, **very shiny, curved**, tough, **to 15 cm**, with a pointed tip, larger and fresh green colour when young. **CONES:** male trees have **small pinkish catkins with pollen, to 5 cm**; female trees produce **soft fleshy "fruit" about 1 cm**, ovoid, the thin leathery skin green-purple with a grey bloom. **The receptacle stalk** below the fruit is characteristically swollen, **soft and red**, 1-2 cm, soon falling (podocarpus means "fruit with a stalk or foot"). The **inner shell is thin and woody** containing 1-2 woody seeds smaller than those of *P. falcatus*.

**Propagation:** Direct sowing on site, wildings and seedlings.

**Seed:** When the receptacle is red-purple, pick the ripe cones, **treatment:** remove the soft receptacle and spread the cones out to dry in humid shade. The leathery outer cover can then be removed to reveal the hard rough coated seeds. Scarify, crack or soak the seeds in water for 24 hours before sowing. **As the seeds are sensitive to drying out, sow within 4 days for best results.**

**storage:**

**Management:** Pruning; slow growing.

**Remarks:** The species will grow well in all high-rainfall areas of Uganda both at low and high altitudes. It is a high-class soft wood, considerably superior to European soft woods. Can be grown in forest plantations similar to pines, as avenue trees or intercropped for shade in banana, coffee and cocoa plantations.

