

South-West Asia, China

Ar: *Khuk*

Eng: *Peach* Tg: *Kuk*

Ecology:

A small fruit tree of temperate climates, widely planted in highlands and home gardens, 1,700-2,400 m. It will grow in quite dry soils. In Eritrea, it is cultivated in the highlands, specifically in Keren, Elabered, Dekemhare and Asmara in orchards and home compounds.

Uses:

Firewood, **food** (fruit), bee forage.

Description:

A deciduous spreading tree to 6 m, but normally pruned in cultivation. BARK: Grey-brown, splitting; young twigs angular, **smooth and red**. LEAVES: Narrowly oval, 5-15 cm long, the **edge finely toothed, dull green**, paler below with a raised midrib, shortly stalked. FLOWERS: Blossom on the bare tree, flowers **deep pink to 4 cm across**, usually single, 5 petals around the central stamens. Flowers grow on small side branches which later take the weight of the tree's fruit. FRUIT: **Round and fleshy** 4-8 cm across, usually smaller, greenish, ripening **yellow-red** and covered with **short hairs** which rub off. Inside a hard **pitted stone contains the single seed**.

Propagation:

Seedlings. Grafting to maintain tree variety and quality. 200-250 seeds per

Seed:

kg. Not necessary, but soaking in cold water for 12 hours enhances

treatment:

germination. Can retain viability up to a year at room temperature.

storage:

Management:

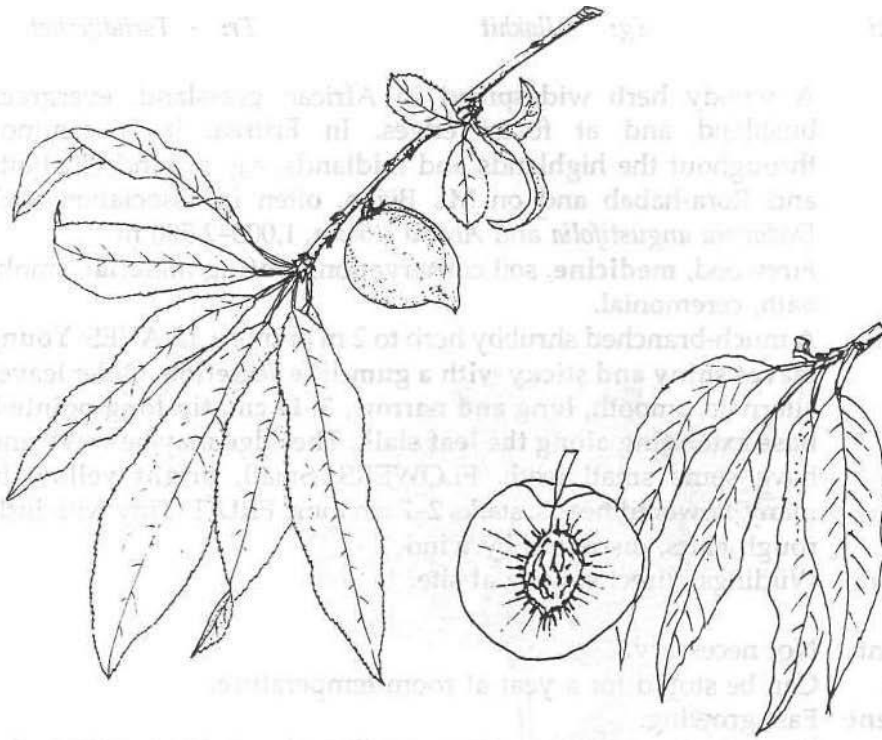
Pollarding to encourage branching. Pruning before the rains promotes good fruiting. Shoots of one year bear fruit the following year, so pruning has to be done accordingly.

Remarks:

It is severely affected by peach leaf curl. It produces large quantities of small, rather hard fruits which are eaten raw and are very popular. Peaches are not self-fertile so 2-4 cross-fertile cultivars must be planted together to ensure good fruit setting. Insects, especially bees will carry out cross-pollination.

Prunus persica

Rosaceae



fruit section

seed - stone

