

India, Persia

Common names: **English:** Pomegranate **Luganda:** Nkomawawanga.

Ecology: A subtropical fruit tree or shrub, cultivated throughout East Africa.

Uses: Food (fruit), ornamental, live fence.

Description: A multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with upright stems or a small tree to 5 m. Branches 4-sided, sometimes spiny. **BARK:** grey-brown. **LEAVES:** opposite, or arising in clusters, shiny and narrow oval on a short pink stalk. Leaves often grow off short side shoots. **FLOWERS:** one or two, beside leaves, funnel-shaped, brilliant orange-red, **about 3 cm across, with 5-7 fleshy red calyx lobes, deep blood-red petals** which are thin and creased and many central stamens. **FRUIT:** orange-brown, tinged red, about the size of an orange with a leathery skin and topped by the remains of the calyx. **Numerous seeds inside are separated by membranes** into cells. Each seed is enclosed by **crimson acid-sweet edible pulp**, rather jelly-like.

Propagation: Cuttings and air layering. Seedlings can also be used, but vegetative propagation from good types is preferred.

Seed: The seed are easily collected from the fruit, not necessary.

treatment:

storage:

Do not store seeds more than a month.

Management: Fast growing. Pruning, trimming.

Remarks: Pomegranate plants are very easy to propagate. In Uganda the fruits contain little juice, but they are still liked by children, and the species is grown as a decorative shrub because of the colourful fruits and as a good hedge.

