

S.E. Asia

Common names: **English:** Black-wood cassia, ironwood.

Ecology: A small tree cultivated all over the tropics from sub-humid to semi-arid and even arid zones, 0-1,600 m. It prefers a high watertable but will tolerate extended drought and a variety of soils. In Uganda, it is widely planted in dry areas in most parts of the country.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, poles, timber (furniture), medicine, bee forage, shade, ornamental, mulch, soil conservation, windbreak.

Description: An evergreen tree to 20 m, often shrub like. **BARK:** smooth, pale grey-brown. **LEAVES:** compound, **stalk to 30 cm**, grooved, **leaflets oblong**, 4-16 pairs, round at base and **tip which may be notched**, dark, shiny, green above. **FLOWERS:** **pale yellow in dense heads**, each flower about 3 cm across. **FRUIT:** pods, in dense clusters, **flat yellow-brown and smooth**, slightly curved, indented across, about 20 seeds within.

Propagation: Direct sowing at site, seedlings, wildings.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 39,000. A prolific seeder.

treatment: fresh seeds require no pretreatment; nick or soak stored seeds up to 48 hours in cold water or pour on boiling water and leave to soak for 24 hours.

storage: seed can be stored for up to a year but germination rate drops with time.

Management: Fast growing; lopping, coppicing.

Remarks: The species is not browsed so it is easily established. Should not be mixed with crops as it competes with them. Susceptible to mildew attacks on the leaves. While it conserves the soil, in Uganda it has proven a greedy feeder.

