

Spathodea campanulata (S. nilotica)

Bignoniaceae

East, Central and West Africa

Common names: **Ateso:** Etukubai **English:** Flame of the forest, Nandi flame, Nile flame, Uganda flame, tulip tree Kwamba: Kikusi, kigima, abadu **Luganda:** Kifabakazi **Lugishu:** Kichubi, kijubu **Lugwe:** Mudungudungu **Lunyuli:** Mungobe **Luo A:** Lepengwata **Luo L:** Opal, elwa **Rukiga:** Ekifurafura **Runyankore:** Munyara **Runyoro:** Munyara, ekinyara **Rutoro:** Murogorogoro **Sebei:** Chemungwa.

Ecology: A decorative tree of forest fringe and a pioneer species, common from Uganda to West Africa and widely planted throughout the tropics from sea level up to 2,000 m. Once established it is drought resistant.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (carving), medicine (bark), ornamental (avenue tree), shade, mulch, windbreak.

Description: A deciduous tree but bare many months, crown rounded, usually 10-15 m. **BARK:** pale grey-brown and smooth, rough with age. **LEAVES:** **compound to 40 cm long, 6 pairs of** leaflets, each wavy, tip pointed plus a central leaflet. Yellow-brown hairs on shoots, buds, branchlets and underside of leaves. **FLOWERS:** **fiery orange-red clusters** stand out all over the tree, a yellow edge on the frilly petals; a yellow-flowering variety exists. Furry buds contain watery liquid. **FRUIT:** brown woody capsules to 25 cm split on the ground releasing many flat winged seeds.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

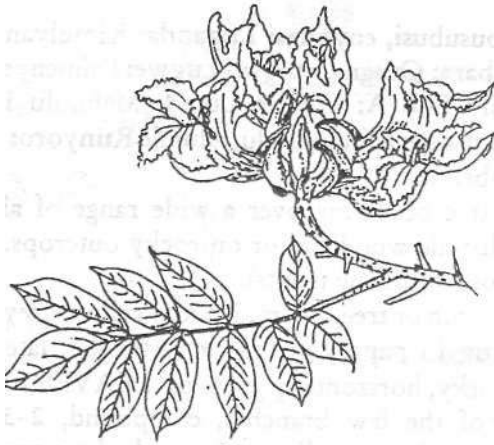
Seed: Good seed germination rate. No. of seeds per kg: about 150,000.

treatment: not necessary.

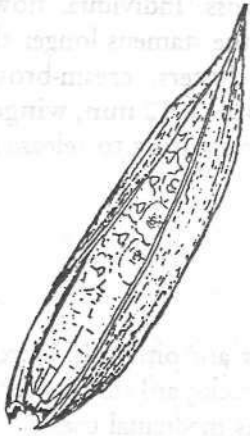
storage: seed does not store well; it should be sown fresh.

Management: Fairly fast growing. Pollarding.

Remarks: Not browsed by domestic animals. A popular decorative tree for avenues.



dry fruit



seed



A. Birnie