

Syzygium cuminii (S. jambolanum)

Myrtaceae

Asia

- Common names: Eng: jambolan, Java plum; Haya: lushanaku; Swah: mzambarau.
- Ecology: A large tree, native to Burma, India, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, introduced to many other tropical countries and even into the sub-tropics, southern Australia and Florida. In Africa found along the east coast but in Tanzania it is being used increasingly inland as an amenity tree. It will grow best at elevations below 1,000 m, with rainfall over 1,000 mm annually, and in well-drained soils, although it can tolerate waterlogging.
- Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (canoes), tools, food (fruit), fodder (leaves), shade, ornamental, soil conservation, windbreak, tannin, dye.
- Description: A large tree up to 30 m, though usually 15-18 m. The thick bole is seldom over 1 m in length below the first major branch, the crown well branched with dense, heavy foliage. BARK: dark and rough on the bole, smooth and paler on the younger branches. LEAVES: opposite large and oval to 20 cm, smooth and shiny, with a distinct pointed tip, strongly aromatic if crushed. Young leaves reddish. FLOWERS: green-white, about 1.5 cm across, in clusters below leaves. Flower branchlets very symmetric, at right angles. FRUIT: fleshy purplish berry about 2.5 cm long and up to 2 cm in diameter. Sweet but juice dries the mouth.
- Propagation: Seedlings, direct sowing.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: about 500. Germination takes 1-2 weeks, and is very good for fresh seeds.
- treatment: not necessary.
- storage: cannot be stored as they lose viability very soon.
- Management: Very suitable for direct sowing.
- Remarks: Ideal for planting in the interior lowland and coastal zones.

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