

# Syzygium guineense

*Myrtaceae*

Indigenous

**Common names:** **English:** Waterberry **Luganda:** Kalunginsavu **Luganda, dialect Buddu:** Muziti **Lugbara:** Anigo, amigo, kuzu **Lugishu:** Chiemo, sizanzass, wandiviri **Lugwe:** Mutuli **Luo:** Kano **Madi:** Ozu, ologua **Rukiga:** Mugote, mufumba **Runyankore:** Musimangwa **Sebei:** Lemaiyua, reberwo.

**Ecology:** A large tree widely distributed in Africa. There are several subspecies occurring from sea level to 2,100 m. It prefers moist soils with a high watertable beside rivers, but will also grow in open woodland. Common in the Impenetrable (Bwindi) forest.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, poles, timber (furniture, general construction, tool handles, carving), food (fruit), bee forage, medicine (bark, roots, leaves), dyes, tannin (bark).

**Description:** A densely leafy forest tree, usually 10-15 m but up to 25 m, the trunk broad and fluted and the crown rounded and heavy, the branchlets drooping, the stems thick and angular. **BARK:** smooth when young, black and rough with age, flaking, producing a red watery sap if cut. **LEAVES:** young leaves purple-red, but mature leaves dark green, **opposite, shiny and smooth on both surfaces, the tip long but rounded, on a short grooved stalk.** The leaves are variable in shape. **FLOWERS:** white, showy stamens, in dense branched heads 10 cm across, the **honey-sweet smell** attracting many insects; **stalks angular, square.** **FRUIT:** oval to 3 cm, purple-black and shiny, one-seeded, in big bunches of 20-30.

**Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seed in pots), wildings, direct sowing on site.

**Seed:** Good germination. No. of seeds per kg: 2,400-3,700.

**treatment:** not necessary.

**storage:** must be stored immediately the fruit is picked. Seeds may be spoilt in less than 24 hours.

**Management:** Pollarding, coppicing.

**Remarks:** The wood is brown, hard and strong. It is easily worked but liable to split.

