

Tabebuia pentaphylla (T. rosea)

Bignoniaceae

Tropical America

Common names: **English:** Pink poui, rosy trumpet tree.

Ecology: One of about 75 Tabebuia all with spectacular trumpet flowers, some with valuable timber. They grow rapidly in deep rich soil and flower when quite young. In Uganda, this species is common in gardens in Kampala as well as along streets and near public buildings. It is also cultivated in some smaller towns such as Mityana.

Uses: Firewood, ornamental (avenue tree), shade.

Description: A small deciduous tree to 5 m, flat topped or spreading, well branched and branching low down. **BARK:** grey-brown, wide shallow fissures, fairly smooth but rougher at the base with small flutes. **LEAVES:** compound, **finger-like with 5 stalked leaflets**, central leaflets larger, over 7 cm and on a stalk to 3 cm, leaflet oval, pointed, looped veins. **FLOWERS:** **large loose heads of pale pink flowers, trumpet shaped**, about 6 cm long, the 5 lobes with a frilly edge and 4 stamens at the base of the tube. Flowers produced in profusion more than once a year. **FRUIT:** small woody follicles which split on one side to set free very small winged seeds.

Propagation: Cuttings, seedlings.

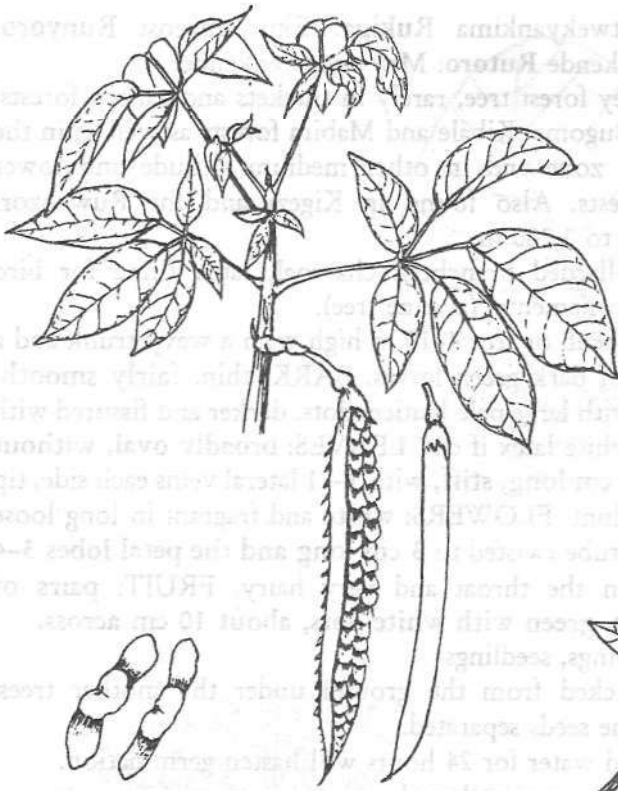
Seed: The fruits mature very quickly and shed the small seeds which float about in the air like flying insects. The collection of these seed requires patience.

treatment: not necessary.

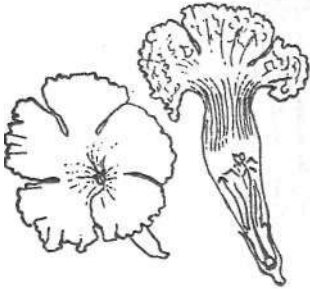
storage: store in sealed containers in a cool place.

Management: Lopping, coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: Though introduced to the Entebbe Botanical Gardens a long time ago, it has only recently become popular. Trees can be pollarded for firewood. The tree flowers twice a year; once when it is bare and once when it is in leaf.



seed



section of flower
with stamens

