

Terminalia mantaly

Combretaceae

Madagascar

COMMON NAMES: English: Madagascar terminalia; **Giriama:** Mwanga.

DESCRIPTION: A shapely tree to about 10 m, with leafy horizontal branches. **BARK:** Pale grey, smooth. **LEAVES:** In terminal rosettes of 4–9 unequal leaves on short thickened stalks, up to 7 cm, tip rounded, edge wavy, base very tapered, leaves bright green when young. **FLOWERS:** Small, green, in erect spikes to 5 cm long. **FRUIT:** Small green and oval to 1.5 cm with no obvious wings.

ECOLOGY: A very popular evergreen tree in Kenya, originally from Madagascar. It grows from the coast to the highlands, prefers fertile soils and is drought resistant once established. The species rarely flowers at high altitudes, so seeds are collected from trees in lower, hotter areas, 0–2,000 m. Agroclimatic Zones III–V.

USES: Shade, ornamental.

PROPAGATION: Seedlings.

SEED: 14,000–15,000 seeds per kg.

treatment: Soak in cold water for 24 hours. Alternatively, make a V-shaped nip at the distal end so that the tip of the seed is just visible. The procedure has to be done carefully so that the seed itself is not damaged.

storage: Seed can be stored for long periods.

MANAGEMENT: Fast growing on good sites. Prune branches when necessary.

REMARKS: Seedlings of this species are sold at a good price in many areas. An excellent spreading shade tree, deservedly popular; fast growing in better soils and drought resistant once established.

FURTHER READING: Beentje, 1994; Dharani, 2002; Katende et al., 1995; Noad and Birnie, 1989.

