

Thevetia peruviana (T. neriifolia)

Apocynaceae

West Indies and Central America

Common names: Eng: lucky nut, yellow oleander.

Ecology: A bush or small tree, it is widely planted in the tropics as an attractive hedge or ornamental bush. It tolerates most soils but prefers sandy ones. Commonly planted in Tanzania and popular in all dry areas, especially below 1,200 m.

Uses: Medicine (seeds), shade, ornamental, soil conservation, live fence.

Description: A multi-stemmed shrub or shady tree to 4 m. LEAVES: shiny, **narrow, in spirals** around the stem, about 10 cm long. FLOWERS: **yellow, white or salmon, in narrow trumpets, petals twisted in bud**, to 6 cm long, the green base extending to the trumpet edge. FRUIT: fleshy, 4-angled to rounded, about 3 cm across, stalked with a flat triangular nut inside.

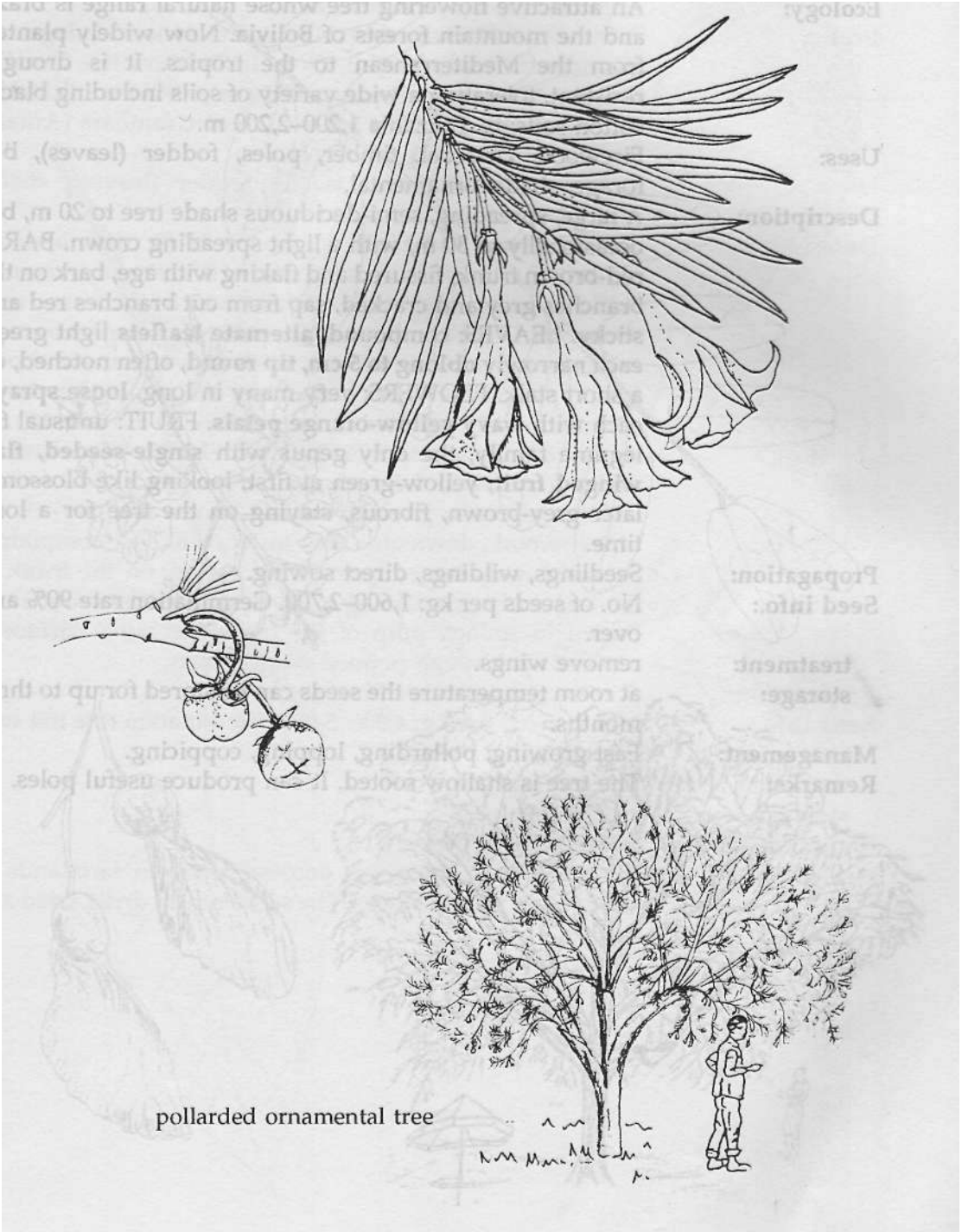
Propagation: Seedlings, cuttings.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: about 300. Good germination rate of **80%.** **treatment:** not necessary.

storage: seeds can be stored for up to 3 months.

Management: Fast growing, prune about a month before **the** rains to induce flowering.

Remarks: Commonly used as hedge in many areas of Tanzania. Every part of the plant is extremely poisonous to livestock and is not touched even by goats—take care with children. The plant can become a weed in wetter areas. In Hawaii the plant is grown to extract from the seeds a powerful drug used to treat heart conditions.



pollarded ornamental tree