

*Toona ciliata*

## Meliaceae

Tropical Asia

**English:** Toona tree**Nyanja:** Senderela**Senga:** Sindlela**Ecology:** A commonly planted exotic tree from tropical Asia, 0–1,200 m. In Zambia, it has been planted as an avenue tree. It grows best on good well-drained soils and does not tolerate sandy soils. The tree is frost-hardy but sensitive to drought.**Uses:** Firewood, **timber** (furniture, light construction), **shade**, windbreak.**Description:** A semi-evergreen tree usually 10 m but may reach 21 m, with **large branches** to a spreading crown. **BARK:** grey-brown, rough and cracking into squares. **LEAVES:** compound, very long up, to 90 cm with 10–14 pairs of leaflets, narrow leaflets up to 15 cm long, **often unequal sided**, tapering to a fine tip, smell of onions when crushed. **FLOWERS:** very small, white, appear July–October, **bell-shaped, in inconspicuous sprays**. **FRUIT:** **brown capsules**, split open November–December into dark brown star shapes, releasing small winged seeds.**Propagation:** Seedlings, cuttings, truncheons, root suckers.**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 300,000–380,000. Germination rate 40–60%.**treatment:** Not necessary.**storage:** Can store up to 6 months.**Management:** Coppicing, pollarding.**Remarks:** The tree is not suitable for planting near food crops because of its shallow and aggressive root system. The wood is soft, light and moderately durable. Good for school compounds and roadside.