

Warburgia ugandensis (W. salutaris)

Canellaceae

Indigenous

- Common names: Eng: East African greenheart; Goro: sagonai; Haya: muhiya; Iraqw: sagonai; Maasai: olmsogoni, msokonoi; Rangi: msokonoi; Samb: mlifu, mdee.
- Ecology: A widely distributed tree in lower rain forest and drier highland forest areas, 1,000-2,000 m. Common in Babati, Lushoto and Iringa Districts of Tanzania.
- Uses: Firewood, timber (furniture), tool handles, food (seasoning), medicine (bark, roots, young twigs), fodder (leaves, fruit), mulch, ornamental, shade, resin.
- Description: An evergreen tree to 25 m with a dense leafy canopy. BARK: rough brown-black, cracked into rectangular scales. LEAVES: shiny dark green above, midrib very clear below, edge wavy, to 10 cm long. FLOWERS: inconspicuous green-cream. FRUIT: round to egg-shaped, to 5 cm long on short stalks, green to purple with a waxy, white surface. Several flat heart-shaped seeds inside a pulp.
- Propagation: No. of seeds per kg: about 10,000. Cuttings, seedlings, direct sowing, wildings.
- Seed info.: Germination over 80% in approximately 15 days. Collect fruit directly from the tree or shake off. Seeds are sensitive to drying out and should be sown fresh without drying, wash the fruits and sow seeds fresh for best results. (Rub the ripe fruit against a wire mesh to extract the seed.)
- treatment: seed should not be stored as they lose viability within a very short time.
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- Management: Fairly slow growing; coppicing.
- Remarks: After seasoning the heartwood develops a slight greenish colour which fades with exposure to light. The wood, although hard and heavy, is not durable in the ground nor termite resistant. It has a high oil content. Trees may be destroyed because of high demand for the medicinal bark. Leaves, bark, young shoots and fruit can be used in curries, and roots are used for soup.

