

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Bena:** mpingipingi; **Bende:** msantu; **Chag:** lama; **Eng:** wild plum; **Fipa:** mnembwa; **Gogo:** mtundwe; **Goro:** tarantu; **Hehe:** mingi, mtundwahi; **Iraqw:** mutuhu, tahhamanto, tarantu; **Maasai:** olama; **Mbug:** olamai, tarantu; **Nyam:** mnembwa mudo, mtundwa; **Samb:** mtundui; **Sangu:** mingi, mtundwahi; **Suku:** mpingi, **mtundwa;** **Swah:** mpingi, mtundakula; **Zara:** membwa, mbingi, mpingi; **Zigua:** mtundwi.
- Ecology:** This is a pan-tropical tree species found in African savannah, America, and tropical Asia. In Tanzania **it** occurs in coastal, Rift Valley and northern areas in open sandy woodland, on stony slopes, scattered thorn bush, arid and semi-arid zones, 0-2,000 m. It is drought resistant. At the coast, seeds are collected in July-August, **but** it flowers and fruits throughout the year in other areas.
- Uses:** Firewood, tool handles, food (fruit), medicine (leaves, roots, bark), fodder, oil (seed).
- Description:** Usually a spiny shrub or a small tree up to 4 m, spines to 1 cm, thin and straight. **BARK:** brown-black small scales. **LEAVES:** alternate, **simple or tufts**, oblong to 2-4 cm long, blue-grey-green, **fold upwards along midrib**, tip round **or** notched. **FLOWERS:** very fragrant, small green-white in small branched clusters. **FRUIT:** oval to 2.5 cm, **thin skin usually yellow, occasionally pink-red, pulp sour but** refreshing, One large seed, containing oil.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, protect natural regeneration.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 700-1,400. Germination very good **and** fast for fresh seed.
- treatment:** not necessary.
- storage:** seeds can be stored for a short period (only 3 months). **Sow** fresh seed for good germination rate.
- Management:** Pruning, coppicing. Protect natural regeneration.
- Remarks:** A useful tree for arid and semi-arid areas. The wood **is** heavy, hard and durable. The seed contains a non-drying oil suitable for soap and lubrication—has been used as a body and hair oil and for softening leather.

