

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Elamai **Ateso K:** Alamai **Luganda:** Museka **English:** Wild plum **Lugbara:** Ochik **Lugishu:** Chirule **Lugwere:** Mukomeri **Luo A:** Alemolemo, olamoi, alelemo **Luo L:** Olimu **Lusoga:** Nsimwa **Madi:** Ichu ilzo, icho **Runyoro:** Museha **Sebei:** Mutoiwa, muteiwa.

**Ecology:** A pan-tropical species found in African savannah, America and tropical Asia. In Uganda, it occurs in wooded grassland in semi-arid areas preferring termite mounds and associated with *Rhus natalensis* and *Allophylus africanus*.

**Uses:** Firewood, timber (utensils), tool handles, food (fruit), medicine (roots, bark, leaves), fodder, oil (seed), live fence.

**Description:** Usually a spiny shrub or a small tree up to 4 m, spines to 1 cm, thin and straight; leaves and branches without hairs. **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 with a common stalk. **FRUIT:** oval to 2.5 cm, **thin skin usually yellow, occasionally pink-red, pulp sour** but refreshing, One large seed, containing oil.

**Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seeds in pots), wildings, direct sowing on site. Protection of natural regeneration is a simple way of getting the tree established.

**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: about 660.

**treatment:**

**storage:**

Seed cannot be stored for long periods. Sow fresh seed for good germination.

**Management:** Slow growing. Trim as a fence. Pruning, coppicing.

**Remarks:** A useful tree for semi-arid areas as it is drought resistant. The wood is heavy, hard and very durable. The seed contains up to 60% of a non-drying oil suitable for soap and lubrication. It has also been used as body and hair oil and for softening leather.



enlarged flower

