

DATA ON A SELECTION OF IMPORTANT AND RECOMMENDED SPECIES

INDIGENOUS TREES

TREES NATURALLY OCCURRING IN KENYA

Scientific name	Common name	Some vernacular name	Zone	Growth rate	Primary uses	Other key features
Acacia abyssinica	UMBRELLA THORN	Njora rahisi, Mugugu, Muniyina	U	Medium	Woodfuel, edible gum	Shade, ornamental, common W Nyanza
Acacia nilotica	EGYPTIAN THORN	Mgungu, Ol'kiloniti, Sertwet	M	Medium	Woodfuel, bees	Woodborer danger
Acacia polyacantha	FALCON'S CLAW	Mgunga, Mtopotopo, Musewa	M	Medium	Posts and tools, medicine	Resinous, needs water table, termite proof
Acacia senegal	GUM ARABIC	Kikwata, Mgunga, Mwera	SA	Slow	Resin is Gum arabic	Wood is hard, pods are good fodder
Acacia seyal	WHITE THORN	Mugaa, Muaa-Mweo, Oriang	M	Medium	Edible gum, medicinal	Hardy v drought
Acacia xanthophloea	FEVER TREE/NAIVASHA THOR	Mgunga, Olerai, Murera	M-U	Medium	Woodfuel, fodder	Brittle branches
Afzelia quanzensis	POD MAHOGANY/LUCKY BEAN	Mbambakofi	C	Slow	Timber prized for carving	Durable in salt water, v thick branches
Albizia gummifera	PEACOCK FLOWER	Mkingu	U	Rapid	Timber prized for furniture	Decorous, deciduous
Balanites aegyptiaca	DESERT DATE	Mjunju, Muhoromo, Mulului	SA	Slow	Timber, fodder, gum	Wood durable; edible fruit; termite resistant
Brachylaena huiliensis	SILVER OAK	Muhuhu, Ol' Magogo, Muhugu	C/U	Medium	Good for carving;	Hardier when mature, wood is tough
Calodendrum capense	CAPE CHESTNUT	Muraraci, Ol'larashi, Mpisili	U	Medium	Timber, tools, poles,	Semi-deciduous, wood is strong, flexible
Cordia africana	CORDIA	Makobokobo, Mringaringa	M/U	v Rapid	Timber, edible fruit, gum	Attractive white flowers
Croton macrostachyus	BROAD-LEAVED CROTON	Mukinduri, Mbali, Mlalai	U	Rapid	Timber, poles, medicinal	Heavy leaf fall; good pioneer species
Croton megalocarpus	CROTON	Muthulu, Ol'nringoit, Musine	U	Rapid	Woodfuel (smoky), shade	Pioneer species for forests; fine shade tree
Ekebergia capensis	CAPE ASH; DOG PLUM	Mununga	U	Medium	Timber tough	Excellent shade tree
Ficus natalensis	BARK CLOTH FIG	Mugumo, Ol'endeti, Kiumo,	M	Medium	Bark cloth, medicinal	Often sacred, similar to F. thonningii
Ficus sur	CAPE FIG	Mukuyu, Ol ngaboli	M/U	Rapid	Edible fruit, medicinal	Traditional ceremonial, fruit prone to insects
Ficus sycomorus	SYCAMORE FIG	Mukuyu, Ol gngaboli	M	Medium	Timber, fuel, edible fruit	Excellent tree for birdlife
Ficus thonningii	STRANGLER FIG	Lubuli, Lutoto, Mrumo, Simotuet	U	Rapid	Often germinates on other tree	Excellent tree for birdlife
Juniperus procera	CEDAR (Af pencil)	Mutarakwa, Ntorokya, Nso	M/U (Dry)	Slow	Timber, posts, furniture	Straight when young, over-exploited
Kigelia africana	SAUSAGE TREE	Mwegea, Ol'darboi	M	Medium	Multiple medicinal	Unripe fruit poisonous
Kigelia moosa	SAUSAGE TREE	Mwegea, Ol'darboi	U	Medium	Multiple medicinal	Used in beer making
Markhamia lutea	MARKHAMIA	Muu, Siala, Mabet, Lusiola	U	Rapid	Poles, timber, tobacco	Coppices with care, good for agroforestry
Melia volkensii	MELIA	Mukau, Muramarui, Mukowe	M/ SA	Slow	Hard red Timber, mulch,	Goats like the fruit
Milicia excelsa	MVULE	Mvule	M/C	Slow	Superb timber	Easy germination, threatened
Newtonia buchananii	NEWTONIA	Mukui, Mkuñ	M/U	Rapid	Boat-making, furniture	Fine ornamental; pods and leaves fodder
Ocotea usambarensis	CAMPHOR	Muithaithi, Muzura, Mukongo	U	Medium	Excellent timber	Fast initial grow, termite prone; over-exploited
Olea capensis ssp. Welwitsch	ELGON OLIVE	Mucarage, Muukuru, Ol'giloni	U	Rapid	Prized timber for furniture	Pale hard wood, termite resistant
Olea europea ssp. Africana	WILD OLIVE	Mutamaiyu, Mlamuru, Muthata	M/U	Slow	Prized timber; high quality charcoal	Fruit edible (but no oil unlike European relative)
Podocarpus falcatus	EA YELLOWWOOD	Ol piripirri, Muthengera	U	Medium	Furniture, boxes, poles	Very good timber, a conifer (but NOT a pine)
Podocarpus latifolius	EA YELLOWWOOD	Muthengera	U	Medium	Plywood, medicinal	Very good timber, a conifer (but NOT a pine)
Polyscias fulva	PARASOL TREE	Mborori, Yaroro	M/U	Rapid	Boxes, beehives, plywood	Both Parasol trees are fine ornamentals
Polyscias kikuyuensis	PARASOL TREE	Mutati, Mborori, Yaroro	U	Rapid	Boxes, beehives, plywood	Wood is odourless, poor fuel, good mulch
Pouteria adolfi-friedericii	MUNA	Muna	U	Medium	Timber, latex sap, fruit	Towering tree in highlands
Prunus africana	RED STINKWOOD	Mkonde-konde, Muiri, Mutimailu	M/U	Medium	High value bark for medicine	Excellent timber, forests and margins
Tamarindus indica	TAMARIND	Mkwaju, Moya, Muthithi, Roka	SA	Slow	Boat-building, furniture,	Wood hard; fruit used for a drink; medicinal
Terminalia brownii	TERMINALIA (Red pod)	Mbarao, Mpoke, Onera	SA	Medium	Timber, handles, fodder	Drought-resistant; popular in dryland agroforestry
Trichilia emetica	CAPE MAHOGANY	Muwamaji, Mururi, Mtutu	U	Medium	Furniture, poles, fuel,	Timber is light, seed oil for soap, seed poisonous
Vepris nobilis	TECLEA	Munderendu, Olgelai, Kuriot	M/U	Medium	Roof beams, sticks, bows	Leaflets in threes
Vepris simplicifolia	TECLEA	Muderendu	U	Medium	Timber, fuel, medicine	Simple leaved
Vitex keniensis	MERU OAK	Mfuu, Mhuru, Moru	U	Rapid	Furniture	Timber much prized, fruit edible
Warburgia ugandensis	AFRICAN GREENHEART	Muth(a)iga, Ol msogoni	M/U	Medium	Furniture, glue resin	Leaves and bark peppery and v medicinal
Zanthoxylum gillettii	AFRICAN SATINWOOD	Sagawoita	U	Medium	Boat-building, carpentry	Wood hard and scented; highly medicinal

EXOTIC TREES

TREES INTRODUCED TO KENYA FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

Scientific name	Common name	Local names	Zone	Growth rate	Primary uses	Other key features
Acacia melanoxylon	AUSTRALIAN BLACKWOOD		U	Rapid	Hard timber	Needs wet upland; prone to blight
Albizia lebbek	WOMEN'S TONGUE	Mcani mbao, Mboromo, Kirongo	U	Rapid	Many medicinal, fodder,	Ceremonial values, very widespread
Artocarpus heterophyllus	JACKFRUIT	Mfenesi (mfuu)	C	Rapid	Fruit, gum, timber	World's biggest fruit, now naturalised to EA
Azadirachta indica	N neem	Mkilifi, Mwarubaini kamili	C-M	Rapid	Multiple, esp medicinal	Hardy on coast; many uses (insecticide etc)
Casuarina cunninghamiana	CASUARINA	Mvinje	U	Rapid	Windbreak, woodfuel	Nitrogen-fixing, prickly seed
Casuarina equisetifolia	CASUARINA	Mvinje, Moinga	C/SA	Rapid	Soil stabiliser, firewood	Nitrogen fixing
Ceiba pentandra	KAPOK TREE	Msufi, Kafamba	C	Rapid	Valuable fibre from seeds	Layered branches
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	RED RIVER GUM		SA	Rapid	Dense timber; warps easily	Coppices well; termite resistant
Eucalyptus globulus	TASMANIAN BLUE GUM	Mkaratusi, Mbanya	U	v Rapid	Timber, plywood, poles	Timber very hard, straight stem
Eucalyptus grandis / saligna	SYDNEY BLUE GUM	Mtimbao, Muringamu, Mbanyi	U	v Rapid	Important woodfuel	Massive, straight, adverse to crops
Grevillea robusta	SILKY OAK	Mgrivea, Meresi, Mukima	U	v Rapid	Furniture, plywood	Good agroforestry tree; likes deep soil
Mangifera indica	MANGO	Mwembe, Maembe	C-SA	Medium	Fruit, fuel, boat-making	Growth slow in uplands; many varieties
Persea americana	AVOCADO	Mparachichi, Mwembe mafuta	U	v Rapid	Fruit rich in protein & oil	Many varieties; toxic to livestock
Psidium guajava	GUAVA	Mpera, Mubera	C-U	Medium	Highly edible fruit, wood	Naturalised to EA
Schinus molle	PEPPER TREE	Mukombokombo	U	Rapid	Fuel, medical, bee forage	Very drought resistant, spice mixes, shade
Syzygium cuminii	JAVA PLUM	Mzambarau	U	Rapid	Timber, poles, tools	Naturalised to EA
Terminalia mantaly	TERMINALIA		C/SA/U	Rapid	ornamental shade tree	Drought resistant, spreading layers

NATURALISED: An exotic tree which produces seed and has gone wild in Kenya. Most vigorous exotics (wattle, eucalyptus, grevillea) are now naturalised.

Key

Most trees will grow outside their optimum climatic/altitude "zone" but growth will be slower and overall performance poorer. Optimum zones are indicated per:

Zone	Local names	Best in wet highlands, need rainfall above 1000mm, withstand chill
UPLAND	BEST AT 1600 m AND ABOVE	Best in wet highlands, need rainfall above 1000mm, withstand chill
MID-RANGE	GENERALLY 1000-2000m	Not ideal for extreme hot, chill or dry; do better than "upland" trees in drier highlands (eg 800-1200mm)
SEMI-ARID	GENERALLY BELOW 2000m	Well adapted for areas of low rainfall eg 400-600mm
COASTAL	BELOW 1000m	Require high humidity, warm temperatures, good rainfall (parts of Lake Basin similar)
MULTIPLE RANGES	SEE ZONE COLUMN	Tolerant of wider range of zone conditions

Within zones, rate and size of growth is dependent on soil quality and, above all, on rainfall (x2 rain = x4 growth rate). Some species require permanent water table

This species data summary is one of many special guideline/information documents produced by Total Kenya for the TotalEco Challenge.

Selection and data guided by Mark Nicholson and other active tree professionals and scientists. Total species in Kenya number approx.2000