

Zanthoxylum gillettii (Fagara macrophylla)

Rutaceae

Indigenous

Trade name: Olon, munyenye.

Common names: **English:** East African satinwood **Kwamba:** Kitututie **Luganda:** Munyenye **Lugishu:** Shukuma **Rukiga:** Omushaga **Rukonjo:** Nyakabonde **Runyankore:** Mulemankobe **Runyoro:** Ntaleye-rungu **Rutoro:** Mutatembwa **Sebei:** Sagawat.

Ecology: A large rain-forest tree from West Africa into the Sudan, south to Angola and throughout East Africa where it has been used in the timber trade. In Uganda, it grows in tropical rain forests, especially in lower- and medium-altitude forests on Mt. Elgon and the Ruwenzori Mountains as well as in Kasyoha-Kitomi, Kalinzu, Kibale and the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forests. Sparingly found in lowland forests of Budongo and Mabira.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, heavy construction), medicine (bark).

Description: A deciduous forest tree 10-35 m with a straight trunk and clear bole up to 15 m, diameter 30-90 cm, crown spreading; **unarmed or with conical woody knobs**, 1-3 cm, often inconspicuous on old trees. Young stems armed with straight or recurved spines. **BARK:** smooth, grey, with spiny woody cones. **LEAVES:** in terminal clusters, leaf stalks and branchlets with straight prickles to 1 cm, **6-13 pairs stiff leaflets** plus one terminal one, 14-30 cm long, **the tip suddenly pointed, base one-sided or rounded**, gland dots numerous but small, sometimes a few prickles on the midrib, 8-14 lateral veins, leaf edge smooth, occasionally round toothed. **FLOWERS:** cream-white, male and female, small in **terminal pyramid clusters 20-30 cm long**. **FRUIT:** rounded and red, 4-6 mm, with one shiny black oily **seed** tasting like peppermint. **Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: Pick the red-brown fruit from the tree before the capsules open and dry in the sun for 1-2 days, then shake out the seed. But the seed should not stay exposed to the sun.

treatment:

storage: up to 2 months. Susceptible to insect attack, so add ash.

Management: Fairly quick growing.

Remarks: A timber tree widely planted in the highlands. The timber is heavy, yellow-white, sweet scented, tough and easily worked but not durable in the ground. The trade name "satinwood" comes from the bright shiny appearance of the polished timber. The bark is used to treat cough. Can be planted as a pure stand and as individual trees. The tree has been planted with *Aningeria* and *Entandophragma* spp. where natural forest has been felled on Mt. Elgon.

