

*Mangifera indica*

## Anacardiaceae

Northern India, Burma

**English:** Mango

**Kunda:** Mango

**Nyanja:** Manga

**Senga:** Mango

**Tumbuka:** Mango

**Ecology:** One of the most important fruit trees of the tropics, now almost naturalized in many places, including Zambia, 0–2,000 m. Hot areas with a pronounced dry season are best for regular fruiting. It prefers well-drained soil, does not tolerate flooding and survives in very dry areas. Roots grow deep.

**Uses:** Firewood, **food** (fruit), medicine (leaves), fodder (leaves), bee forage, **shade**, ornamental, windbreak.

**Description:** A dense leafy evergreen tree with a short trunk and **rounded crown**, 10–15 m. **BARK:** dark brown, cracked with age. **LEAVES:** **dark green**, crowded at ends of branches, to 30 cm long, young leaves soft, **copper-pink, hanging down**. **FLOWERS:** numerous and small, pink-brown in **big upright heads**; pollinated by flies and other small insects. **FRUIT:** large and heavy, **to 15 cm long**. Up to 1,000 fruit have been recorded on one tree. Each mango has a large seed surrounded by sweet, juicy flesh.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, direct seeding, grafting.

**Seed:** Germination rate 60–90%. No. of seeds per kg:  $\pm 50$ .

**treatment:** Not necessary, but remove pulp from seed.

**storage:** Dry seed can be stored. For best results, fresh seed should be used.

**Management:** Lopping.

**Remarks:** Fast growing. Scattered trees on farms provide shade and fruit. Both leaves and fruit skin can smell of turpentine. Trees for commercial fruit production are usually grafted specimens; selected varieties should have little fibre in the fruit and a skin free of the turpentine smell. However, in Eastern Province the mango production is not on a commercial scale and local varieties are used. The fruit is rich in vitamins A and C. The leaves are used to treat sore throats, coughs, bronchitis and diarrhoea.

