

Manihot glaziovii

Euphorbiaceae

Brazil

English: Tree cassava, ceara rubber tree, cearea

Kunda: Katapa

Nyanja: Mtambula, gwada

Ecology: A small tree related to the cassava plant and bearing similar leaves. It has been used as a source of rubber, obtained from the latex. In several African countries, it has become naturalized, including in Zambia where it grows in most soils both on the plateau and in valley areas. Many villagers grow the tree for shade and it does well even in dry areas.

Uses: Food (leaves), **fodder** (leaves), **shade**, ornamental.

Description: A semi-deciduous tree to 8 m, usually 4–5 m, the crown leafy and rounded. **BARK:** pale grey-brown, rough with age; with many **horizontal leaf scars**; copious **white latex** when cut. **LEAVES:** shiny green and soft, **palmate, compound, with up to 7 deeply cut lobes**, on stalks to 40 cm, crowded at the ends of branches. **FLOWERS:** small, yellow-green. **FRUIT:** **rounded**, green, in sections.

Propagation: Cuttings.

Seed:

treatment: –

storage: –

Management: Pollarding and coppicing.

Remarks: Fast growing. In Eastern Province, leaves are prepared and eaten like cassava (*Manihot esculenta*).

