

Leaflet No. 58

Tree Seed Information Leaflet



Xymalos monospora

For more information contact:

The Director
Kenya Forestry Research Institute
P.O. Box 20412-00200
Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254-724259781/2
+254-722-157414
+254-20-2010651/2

E-mail: director@kefri.org
Website: www.kefri.org



Kenya Forestry Research Institute

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Species: *Xymalos monospora* (Harv.) Baill.

Family: Monimiaceae

English name: Lemon wood

Local names: Murendeti, Mukohokoho (Kikuyu)

Muako (Meru)

Serweriet (Kipsigis)

Kipteldet (Sebei)

Description

Xymalos monospora is an indigenous evergreen forest tree that grows to a height of 10 m. It has a peeling silvery grey rough bark which exudes reddish sap when cut. Leaves are dotted with glands, lemon scented, with toothed margin. Flowers are greenish appearing in clusters. Fruits are oval, with a persistent stigma, yellow to reddish when ripe, containing one seed.

Distribution

Xymalos monospora is widely distributed, though not common in wetter highland forest from 1,200 to 2,500 m above sea level.

Flowering and fruiting

Flowering occurs between September and October. Pollination is done by insects and fruit maturity takes 4 - 6 months. Seeds can be collected from March to April.

Seed collection method

The mature reddish brown fruits are collected from the crown by hand picking or by spreading a canvas or net under the tree and cutting down the branchlets bearing ripe fruits using looping shears.

Seed extraction, drying and cleaning

The mature fruits are de-pulped by squeezing or rubbing gently on a wire mesh or screen, and washing in running water to remove the mucilage. Seeds are then sun dried under a shade. Seeds are cleaned by removing unwanted materials such as twigs, leaves and broken seeds by hand sorting. A purity of 98% can be achieved.

Seed storage

Xymalos monospora seed loose viability very fast and should therefore be sown when fresh for good germination.

Number of seeds per kilogram

There are about 7,000 - 9,000 seeds per kilogram of clean seed.

Seed sowing and germination

Pre-sowing treatment is not necessary. Under ideal conditions *Xymalos monospora* seed germinate within 10 - 20 days of sowing. The average germination rate of a mature and healthy seedlot is 40 - 60%. The expected number of seedlings per kilogram of seed is 4,000.

Uses

Xymalos monospora is used for timber, firewood, posts, bee forage, medicine, shade and ornamental purposes.

Compiled by: Angaine P. M.