

KENYA SHADE TREE

Pink Cedar, Shingle Tree, Indian Ash, Mundani, Lazcar

Acrocarpus fraxinifolius

Leguminosae

ECHO® PLANT INFORMATION SHEET

Description

Acrocarpus fraxinifolius is native to the tropical regions of Asia. It is a fast-growing, deciduous tree, which annually can grow 1.3-3 m (4.25 – 10 ft), attaining heights of 30-60 m (100–200 ft) and a diameter of over 200 cm. *A. fraxinifolius* is a pioneer tree, one of the first to regrow in a cleared area. It is very sensitive to frost. *Acrocarpus* is recommended for erosion control because of its deep root system, up to 4.5 m (15 ft), which holds soil in place on hillsides and along rivers.

Uses

It functions as a shade tree on tea and coffee plantations in countries such as Kenya and Uganda. The wood of *Acrocarpus fraxinifolius* is hard and strong resembling ash and walnut so that it often substitutes for these two species in construction and fuel needs. It also has potential to be used as a windbreak. The leaves can serve as fodder for animals and the flowers produce nectar and pollen for bees. Although a legume, it apparently does not have nitrogen-fixing nodules. The leaves are suitable for use as mulch.

Common Names

- Spanish
 - Cèdre Rosat

Cultivation

- Planting depth: 2 cm (.75 in)
- Germination: 15-30 days; The seeds have a hard coat and require pretreatment to germinate. The seeds can be soaked in concentrated sulfuric acid for 10 minutes or soaked in 90° C (194° F) water for 1 minute. Then let soak in cool water for 6 hours.
- Light requirements: Full sun, though can tolerate some shade at a young stage
- Soil: can grow in acid and calcareous soils
- Elevation: sea level – 2,000 m (6,600 ft)
- Temperature: 15° - 26° C (59° - 80° F)
- Rainfall: 500-3000 mm (20-120 in)

Harvesting and Seed Production

The flat, golden-brown pods are approximately 20 cm (8 in) long and slightly less than 3 cm (1 in) wide. When the fruits are dry they are macerated to release the seed. Cleaned seeds can be stored at room temperature for up to a year.

Pests and Diseases

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