

**Acacia xanthophloea**

Fabaceae (Mimosaceae)

**Indigenous**

**COMMON NAMES:** **Boran:** Hwacho dima; **English:** Fever tree, Yellow-barked acacia, Naivasha thorn; **Kamba:** Kimweya, Musewa, Mwea, Mweya; **Kikuyu:** Murera; **Kipsigis:** Ochmnyalilit; **Luo:** Kuth ataro; **Maasai:** Olerai; **Marakwet:** Reno; **Meru:** Murera; **Taveta:** Mwelela.

**DESCRIPTION:** A large tree to 25 m with a flat crown and light foliage. **BARK:** This acacia is easily recognized by its **yellow-green bark**, smooth and powdery, cracked when older. **THORNS:** Conspicuous when young, straight, white, in pairs, up to 10 cm long. May be missing in old branches. **FLOWERS:** Round heads, white, or pink in Kenya. **FRUIT:** Yellow-brown pods, to 13 cm, flat, slightly constricted between seeds, breaking into segments.

**ECOLOGY:** A tree found from Kenya south to South Africa. Often many grow together where the groundwater table is high, beside lakes or rivers, 600–2,300 m, often on black-cotton soil. Can be grown as an ornamental in much drier soils. Found mainly inland but not recorded in the Lake Victoria basin, or in extreme northern and eastern parts of Kenya. Only riverine in very dry areas. Very common around Nairobi, Naivasha, Kajiado, Nakuru and Narok. Agroclimatic Zones III–V.

**USES:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, posts, edible gum, inner bark chewed, medicine (bark), fodder (foliage and pods), bee forage, ornamental, nitrogen-fixing, river-bank stabilization, dead fence (dry branches).

**PROPAGATION:** Seedlings, wildings, direct sowing at site.

**SEED:** Germination is good and fairly uniform, reaching 70% after 14 days; 24,000–30,000 seeds per kg.

**treatment:** Not necessary for fresh seed. Stored seed should be soaked in cold water for 24 hours or nicked at the cotyledon end.

**storage:** Seed very susceptible to insect damage.

**MANAGEMENT:** A fast-growing tree. Lopping, pruning and thinning in pastures. Also tolerates pollarding.

**REMARKS:** Bark extract traditionally used for malaria treatment. A useful tree for protection of watercourses.

Good in pastures due to its light crown. The wood is susceptible to attack by wood borers. Planted at the coast as an ornamental.

**FURTHER READING:** <http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/Sites/TreeDBS/AFT/AFT.htm>; Albrecht, 1993; Beentje, 1994; Dharani, 2002; Mbuya et al., 1994; Noad and Birmie, 1989; Maundu et al., 1999; Palgrave and Palgrave, 2002; van Wyk, 1998.

