

Scientific name: *Albizia ferruginea* (Guill. & Perr.) Benth.

Family: Leguminosae.

Distribution/conservation status: widespread in semi-deciduous forest, extending into evergreen and savanna forests where conditions are suitable. Vulnerable (VU) declining due to overexploitation for timber, charcoal and removal of bark for medicinal uses.

Common names: West African albizia (English), Ngu (Igbo), Ayinre-ogo (Yoruba), Uwowe-nugu (Edo).

Fruits/seeds: red-brown to yellow-brown oblong flat pod containing about 10 globose to ellipsoid flattened seeds.

Fruiting time: December – March.

Seed collection: pods are easily opened to remove seeds.

Type of seed: orthodox.

Sowing method: scarify seeds in concentrated sulphuric acid for 7 minutes or mechanically scarify and soak in water for 24 hours.

Sowing medium: forest soil.

Germination period: 7-10 days.

Germination percentage: 70%.

Vegetative propagation: root cuttings.

Growth/development: Seedlings require light shade. Transplanting can be done within 1 – 2 months. A height of 1.3m is reached in one year. Trees take about 15 years to start fruiting.

Notes: collect seeds promptly when ripe and check carefully for tiny holes that indicate insect damage; damaged seeds do not germinate.