

Scientific name: *Lonchocarpus sericeus* (Poir.) DC.

Family: Leguminosae.

Distribution/conservation status: widely distributed in drier forests and near watercourses in savanna areas. Not assessed by the IUCN Red List.

Distribution/common names: Savonnette, Lilac tree (English), Nzassi (Igbo), Apapo, Ipado (Yoruba), Ukpakoka (Edo)

Fruits/seeds: clusters of persistent light brown, flat pods, pointed at both ends and irregularly constricted, containing *c.* 2 - 7 bean-like seeds.

Fruiting time: May – July.

Seed collection: collect pods as soon as they fall from the tree and open to remove seeds.

Type of seed: orthodox.

Sowing method: after taking safety precautions to protect face and hands, stir the seeds in concentrated sulphuric acid for 7 minutes, drain and sow immediately in nursery bags at a depth of 2cm.

Sowing medium: topsoil.

Germination period: 10 – 14 days.

Germination percentage: 75 – 80%.

Growth/development: seedlings require partial shade; they can be planted out 8 weeks after germination.

Notes: seedlings should be watered every three days; do not over-water.