

Scientific name: *Treculia africana* Decne. ex Trécul

Family: Moraceae.

Conservation status/distribution: occurs in evergreen forest and wet areas of semi-deciduous and drier forests.

Common names: African breadfruit, African boxwood (English), Ukwá (Igbo), Afon (Yoruba), Ize (Edo)

Fruits/seeds: massive, spherical, yellow-green fruit, covered by tiny black prickles and containing pulp in which numerous seeds are embedded.

Fruiting time: December – July.

Seed collection: fruits detach from trunk and branches when ripe, falling under the tree where they are easily collected. Remove seeds from pulp as fruits start to decompose.

Type of seed: recalcitrant.

Sowing method: sow at a depth of 2cm in nursery bags.

Sowing medium: forest soil.

Germination period: 7 – 10 days.

Germination percentage: 100%.

Growth/development: Seedlings require full shade and frequent watering. Growth is quite fast and saplings should be large enough to plant out 8 weeks after germination. Trees start to flower and fruit for the first time after 3 and 4 years respectively.

Note: seedlings are prone to attack by caterpillars; check for damage and remove caterpillars manually.