

Entandrophragma candollei

Scientific name: *Entandrophragma candollei* (Harms.).

Family: Meliaceae.

Distribution and conservation status: widespread in moist semi-deciduous or evergreen forests, particularly in regions with an annual rainfall of about 1800 mm; **VU** due to over-exploitation.

Common names: White African Cedar (English), Asurin (Yoruba), Sapele (Edo).

Fruits/seeds: pendulous, cylindrical capsule, brown-purplish black, dehiscent from the apex and base with 5 woody valves, up to 20 seeded with seeds attached to the upper part of the central column.

Fruiting time: June.

Seed extraction method: remove seeds (not wing) from central column.

Type of seed: recalcitrant with epigeal germination.

Sowing method: direct sowing.

Sowing medium: forest top soil.

Germination period: 10-15 days but the germination rate can be low.

Germination percentage: 70-90% for fresh seeds.

Planting: full shade.

Growth and development: seedlings growth is quite slow, increasing only by 30 cm per year.

Notes: seed production is generally erratic with one good fruiting within three years. Though wind-dispersed, the seeds are easy to collect at the base of the mother tree, but are highly susceptible to insect attack. Examine carefully and discard any seeds with small holes.