



NOTES FROM THE UNAFAS CVP TREE NURSERY, ON HOW TO GERMINATE AND NURSE USEFUL TREE SPECIES OF CAMEROON

Njangsanga

Scientific Name – *Ricinodendron heudelotii*

[Link to seedling photo](#)

A fast growing tree, up to 50 m tall. The stem is straight, 80-90 cm diameter, branches are few and thick. It is deciduous - leaves all fall in the dry season. Njangsanga produces male trees and female trees, so +/-50% of trees (the male ones) will not bear fruit. Female trees need males nearby for pollination. Trees naturally start to bear at 4-8 years. The wood is soft, used for shutters, carving etc. Trees grown from stumps can be coppiced and pollarded. It is suitable for plantation and intercropping, boundary and roadside planting. It is a popular avenue tree in Uganda.

Biophysical limits. Altitude, 100-1200 m. altitude. Mean annual rainfall, 1400-3500 mm. Mean annual temperature, 18-32°C.

The best way to produce Njangsanga is by grafting cuttings from mature, female trees that bear well, onto seedlings grown from seed. This method produces a quality tree that will bear fruit in 2-3 years, it will be a 'replica' of the tree that provided cuttings.

Nursery technique

Trees fruit mid-wet season. The fruit is hard, seeds can be extracted by simply leaving the fruits on the ground to rot until animals insects and bacteria have removed or softened the pulp - 3-4 months, or, fruit can be collected and placed in a pile or pit to rot, or in a sack suspended in a stream. Ensure that all the fruit pulp is cleaned away, by cutting and washing, leaving the hard seed case. If the seed is planted before cleaning off the fruit, it will attract insects and rodents that can damage the seeds and cause other damage to your nursery or garden.

- Make a seed bed with loose soil about 40 cm deep. It should not be in the shade.
- Scatter the seeds on the soil surface, slightly separated, cover with a thin layer of soil.
- Water and weed regularly.
- When seeds germinate white tissue cracks out of the shell, exposing the first leaves.
- When germination starts transfer each seed to a small container filled with soil.
- Most germination occurs within 8 weeks of sowing, but continues for up to a year.
- Turn the soil and seeds in the seed bed to encourage more seeds to germinate.
- Seedlings grow fast and easily.
- They need sun, not shade.
- They produce shoots and leaves quickly, a tap root develops later.



Njangsanga continued

- The leaves have nectar secreting glands that attract ants, aphids and viruses that sometimes destroy seedlings.
- If seedlings get small white fluffy insects on the leaves and shoots wipe these off, remove infected leaves and burn them, then spray the whole plant and soil with water containing neem oil, or ground up pepe.
- Planting garlic amongst the seedlings helps protect them from insects.
- Placing neem seedlings amongst the njangsanga helps protect against pests.
- Remove all leaves that turn yellowish or look unhealthy.
- Seedlings that are damaged or trimmed re-sprout easily.
- Allow enough space between seedlings so that the leaves do not overlap too much. This helps prevent disease.
- The shoots and leaves develop more quickly than roots.
- When roots grow out of the containers, cut the roots back and transfer plants to bigger pots.
- Seedlings can be transplanted when they are as tall as your knee, or up to your waist.
- Seedlings can be grafted when the stem is the thickness of one or two pencils.

NOTES