Borassus flabellifer *Palmae*

**English:** Toddy palm, **Swahili:** Mnazi.

Ecology: Native to the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. It is reportedly naturalized in Pakistan, Socotra, and parts of China. In Uganda, the tree is not common but can grow well near Lake Victoria and at Butiaba on Lake Albert, requiring plenty of rain and sun.

**Uses:** Food, drink, palm wine, oil, thatching.

**Description:** A robust tree that can reach a height of 30 metres (98 ft). BARK: The trunk is grey, robust and ringed with leaf scars; old leaves remain attached to the trunk for several years before falling cleanly. LEAVES: fan-shaped and 3 m (9.8 ft) long, with robust black teeth on the petiole margins. FLOWERS: male flowers are less than 1 cm long and form semi-circular clusters, which are hidden beneath scale-like bracts within the catkin-like inflorescences. The female flowers are golfball-sized and solitary, sitting upon the surface of the inflorescence axis. After pollination, these blooms develop into fleshy fruits 15–25 cm wide, each containing 1-3 seeds. FRUIT: black to brown with sweet, fibrous pulp and each seed is enclosed within a woody endocarp.

**Propagation:** Seedlings

**Seed:** Young palmyra seedlings grow slowly, producing only a few leaves each year (establishment phase), but at an as yet undetermined time, they grow rapidly, producing a substantial stem

**Management:** Fast growing

**Remarks:** *Borassus flabellifer* has a growth pattern, very large size, and clean habits that make it an attractive ornamental tree, cultivated for planting in gardens and parks as landscape palm species.