

## *Kigelia pinnata*

**Botanical Name:** *Kigelia pinnata*

**Common Name:** Sausage tree, Cucumber tree

### **Morphological Characteristics:**

It is a tree growing up to 20 m tall. The bark is grey and smooth at first, peeling on older trees. It can be as thick as 6 mm on a 15-cm branch (Roodt 1992). The wood is pale brown or yellowish, undifferentiated and not prone to cracking (Roodt 1992). The tree is evergreen where rainfall occurs throughout the year, but deciduous where there is a long dry season. The leaves are opposite or in whorls of three, 30–50 cm long, pinnate, with six to ten oval leaflets up to 20 cm long and 6 cm broad; the terminal leaflet can be either present or absent. The flowers (and later the fruit) hang down from branches on long flexible stems (2-6 metres long). Flowers are produced in panicles; they are bell-shaped (similar to those of the African tulip tree but darker and more waxy), orange to reddish or purplish green, and about 10 cm wide. Individual flowers do not hang down but are oriented horizontally.



### **Growing season and Type:**

1. The trunk of a Sausage Tree has light brown, sometimes flaky bark and supports a dense rounded to spreading crown of leathery, slightly glossy foliage.
2. It blooms from August to November. The blood-red tulip-shaped flowers of the sausage tree open one at a time at night on long, rope-like stalks that hang down from the limbs of this tropical tree.
3. In their native habitat the blossoms are pollinated by searching for nectar bats, insects and sunbirds. Although the flowers are beautiful, odor is quite unpleasant for humans.



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1. Flower of *Kigelia pinnata*
2. Leaf of *Kigelia pinnata*
3. Tree of *Kigelia pinnata*

Source: <https://tropicals.com/html/tropicals/articles/trees/kigelia.htm>