

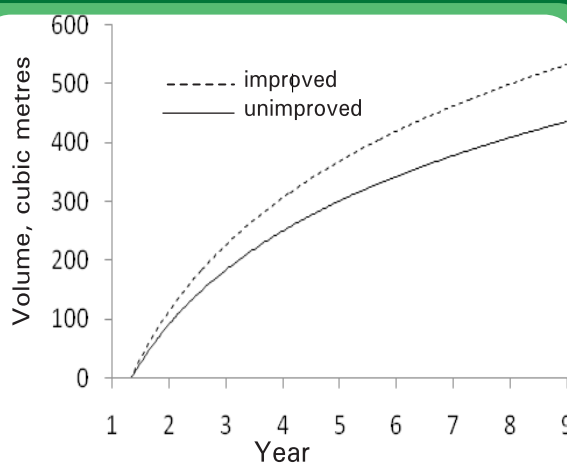
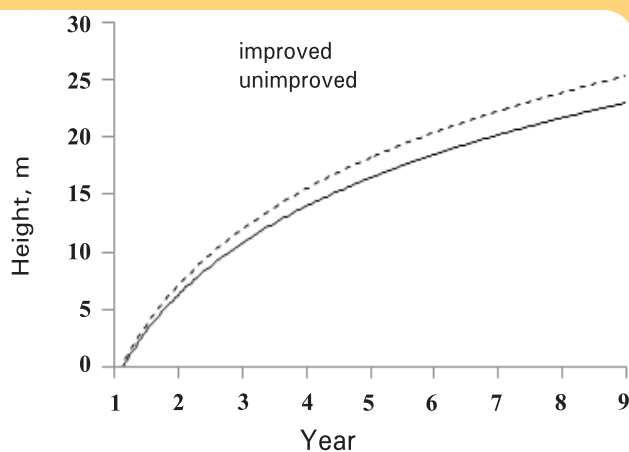
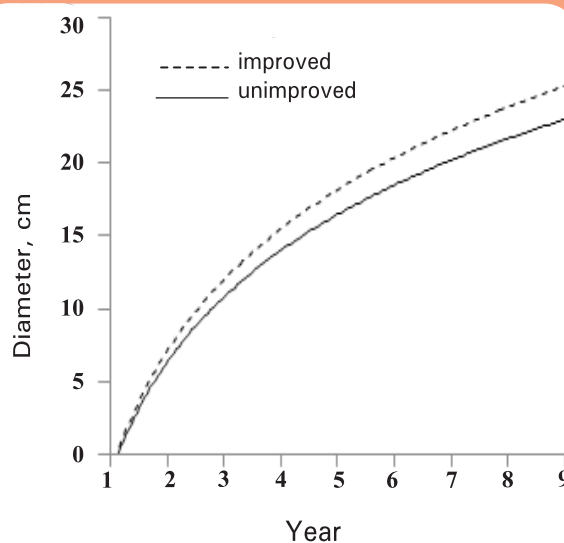
# EARN MORE BY GROWING IMPROVED

## Rose gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*)



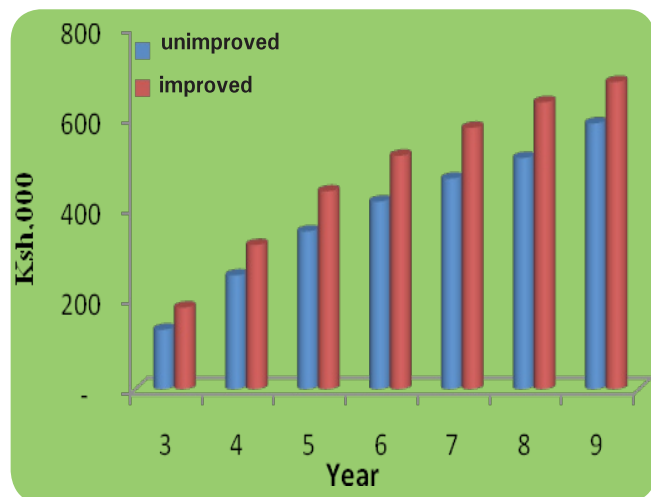
A nine year old improved Rose gum plantation

The improved Rose gum is a technological development of the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) that has been developed through systematic reintroduction, selection and breeding of Rose gum to produce fast growing straight trees. The best improved Rose gum attains annual height increment of 5 meters, annual diameter increment of 4 centimeters between the ages of 2 and 5 years, and average annual volume growth of 50 cubic meters per hectare at the age of 9 years. The volume production by the improved Rose gum is 33 % higher than that of unimproved Rose gum.

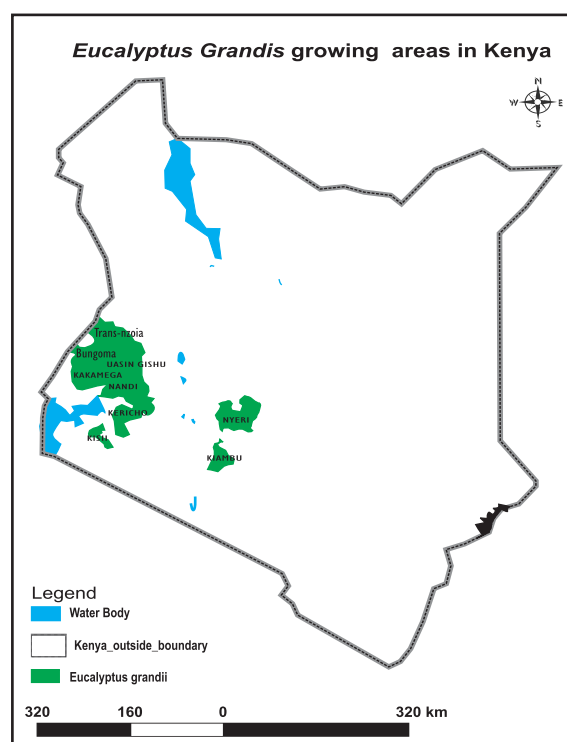


Product	Age in years	Size in diameter at ground level in cm	Remarks
Stakes (withies)	2	Less than 5	These are mainly removals as thinning from coppices and high density plantations
Rails, fitos and fuelwood	3	5-10	Used as building materials
Props and posts	5	10-15	Used for construction of semi-permanent houses, scaffoldings for storey houses, fencing posts and for support of agricultural crops (e.g. passion fruit, bananas, greenhouses)
Pulpwood	8	More than 15	Used for pulp
Electricity transmission poles	8 - 12	30-40	Used for electricity power transmission and construction of large buildings
Logs	15	More than 40	For production of sawn timber and ply wood

Earnings from the improved Rose gum compares favourably with those from cash crops (mainly tea, coffee and maize) grown at similar sites. The best income from improved Rose gum is realized when trees are harvested at the age of 9 years for production of electricity transmission poles. The average income from one hectare of improved Rose gum when sold as a combination of props, posts and fuelwood is as shown below. When sold as electricity transimition poles, the gross income is Ksh. 2,000,000 which translates to Kshs 222,250 per year.



The best areas for growing improved *E. grandis* are in Western Kenya, Rift Valley and Central highlands as shown in the map below



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