

# AFRICAN BAOBAB

Found across sub-Saharan Africa and known to many as the Tree of Life, this ancient species of baobab is cultivated worldwide for its nutritious fruit.

**Adansonia Digitata**

**Adansonia Kilima\***



**Adansonia Digitata**, commonly known as the African baobab, is a tree species native to Africa. It is known for its massive trunk and unique shape, which has earned it the nickname "upside-down tree." The tree's fruit and leaves have long been used in traditional African medicine, and its bark and wood have many practical applications. Despite its importance, the African baobab is threatened by habitat loss and climate change.

# Baobab Basics

Baobabs are resilient trees. However, they are facing extinction due to climate change. By growing your own Baobab, you can help reverse this ecological tragedy.



## Location

Baobabs can live outdoors in most climates that don't freeze. Older plants can tolerate occasional *light* frost, but your trees should otherwise be protected.



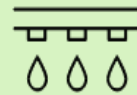
## Watering

Baobabs have two modes - growth and dormancy. From Spring to the end of summer, your baobab will thrive with lots of water (along with the heat). As the temperature falls, hold back on watering and only dampen the soil when it's completely dry. You are most likely to kill it by overwatering during this time. Even during the growing season, don't worry about letting it be thirsty while you're on vacation. They are basically camels.



## Lighting

Baobabs are adapted to thrive in harsh, direct sunlight with high temperatures. Young plants will need protection from direct sun for long periods of time, though your plant will learn to adapt to its new home over time.



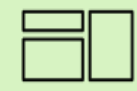
## Pests

Every part of the Baobab tree is edible to humans, which means it's a tasty treat for most pests too. While the trunk can survive losing its leaves to an infestation, you'll want to prevent this as best you can. We recommend filling your garden with ladybugs and praying mantis!



## Soil and Fertilizer

Baobabs are, by most means, succulents, and thrive in dry, well-draining soils. Make sure your soil isn't too rich in nutrients, the Baobab is accustomed to harsh, arid conditions.



## Indoor Growing

Your baobab doesn't need to become a giant if you don't want it to. These adaptable trees can be grown indoors, especially during the winter, and will grow to fit the size of the pot you choose.



Adansonia is a genus of trees commonly known as baobabs. They are known for their distinctive appearance, with thick trunks and branches that look like roots. Baobabs are native to Africa, Madagascar, and Australia and can grow to be very large and old, with some specimens known to be over a thousand years old. Here are some tips on how to grow and care for Adansonia:

- **Soil and sunlight:** Baobabs prefer well-draining soil and plenty of sunlight. Make sure the soil is not too rich, as too much nitrogen can cause excessive leaf growth at the expense of trunk and root growth.
- **Watering:** Baobabs can go for long periods without water, as they have adapted to survive in dry conditions. However, they do need to be watered occasionally, especially when young. Between waterings, let the soil air dry entirely.
- **Pruning:** Baobabs can be pruned to control their size and shape. It's best to prune them in the late winter or early spring before new growth starts. Remove any branches that are unhealthy, crossing, or rubbing against one another as well as any that are dead.
- **Fertilizing:** Baobabs do not require much fertilizer, but a slow-release fertilizer can be applied in the spring.
- **Propagation:** Baobabs can be propagated from seeds or cuttings. Seeds can take a long time to germinate, so it's best to start them in the spring or summer. Cuttings should be taken in the summer, and the ends should be allowed to dry out for a few days before planting.
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- **Climate:** Baobabs grow best in warm, tropical climates. In areas with colder winters, they can be grown in containers and brought indoors during the winter months.

Overall, Adansonia is a hardy and low-maintenance tree that can add a unique touch to any landscape.

1. Adansonia trees are commonly known as baobab trees and are native to Africa.
2. Baobab trees can live for up to 2,000 years and grow up to 98 feet tall and 36 feet wide.
3. The bark of baobab trees is fire-resistant and can protect the tree during a forest fire.
4. Baobab trees are known for their massive trunks, which can store up to 120,000 liters of water during the dry season.
5. Baobab trees are also known as the "upside-down tree" because their branches resemble roots sticking out of the ground.