



FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

LIVING FENCES

What is a “living fence”?

A living fence is a fence made of living trees, shrubs or other plant materials.

Why plant a living fence?

A living fence can provide the following benefits:

- Grows quickly so can rapidly provide multiple benefits
- Additional food sources for both humans and animals
- Keeping animals out of cropping areas
- Marking boundary lines of property
- Separating fields used for distinct purposes
- Provision of fuelwood
- Construction materials
- Soil improvement (nitrogen-fixation, mulch, improved structure)
- Windbreak (protection from wind)

Best management practices for living fences

By their nature, living fences need to be cared for to be kept alive and useful for their desired purpose(s). Similar to any fence, they will become inefficient if not appropriately maintained. Living fence management includes:

- Regular pruning in the dry season to control and conform growth to suit your purposes
- Monitoring for disease and insect pressure
- Replanting of dead fence material
- Protection of young seedlings and/or newly planted trees from livestock or human damage

LIVING FENCE SPECIES FOR CAMBODIA

Gliricidia sepium



Common Name: Gliricidia

Uses: Cattle fodder, livestock barrier

Benefits: Grows quickly; fixes nitrogen; can be used as a living fence to control cattle; produces high protein fodder.

Characteristics: Thornless, leguminous tree up to 10-12 m high. Smooth bark, varying in color from whitish grey to deep red-brown. Flowers pink to purple, tinged with white. Bean pod is green, reddish-purple when unripe, light yellow-brown when mature, narrow, 10-18 cm long, 2 cm wide.

How to plant: Cuttings or seed propagation

Leucaena leucocephala



Common Name: kanthum theet; kratin

Uses: Cattle fodder, livestock barrier, human food, charcoal/firewood

Benefits: Grows quickly; fixes nitrogen; can be used as a living fence to control cattle; produces high protein fodder

Characteristics: thornless, leguminous tree up to 7-20 m high, produces a cluster of flat brown pods 13-18 mm long containing 15-30 seeds.

How to plant: Seed propagation

Moringa oleifera



Common Name: mrum

Uses: Cattle fodder, livestock barrier, human food

Benefits: Grows quickly; drought tolerant; can be used as a living fence to control cattle; produces high protein fodder

Characteristics: Short, slender, deciduous tree up to 10 m high. Flowers fragrant, white, 2.5 cm in diameter. Bean pods, brown, triangular, 30–120 cm long, 1.8 cm wide, containing about 20 seeds.

How to plant: Cuttings or seed propagation

Acacia pennata



Common Name: Sa Om, Climbing wattle

Uses: Cattle fodder, livestock barrier, human food, medicine

Benefits: Grows quickly; fixes nitrogen; can be used as a living fence to control cattle; produces high protein fodder

Characteristics: Thorny leguminous tree up to 5 m high. Flowers, pale-yellow/white and globular. Bean pods, thin, flat, long, and brown.

How to plant: Cuttings or seed propagation

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