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## PLEASE PROTECT ME

I am a very rare specimen tree in your area. Even though I may look indestructible, I am a very fragile tree. In order to ensure my survival, please protect me by following these suggestions:

1. Do not injure my trunk with any object or graffiti.
2. Keep the lawn away from my trunk.



3. Keep all machines and weed whips away.
  4. Do not pull or hang from my branches "Ouch!! It Hurts".
  5. Do not over water me.
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The Department of Recreation and Parks maintains and protects hundreds of heritage trees. Heritage trees are individual trees of any size or species that are specifically designated as heritage because of their historical, commemorative, or horticultural significance. Preserving these treasures is important for future generations to admire. For further information, please contact the Department of Recreation and Parks at the address below.



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS  
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Los Angeles, CA 90039

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## AFRICAN SAUSAGE TREE

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### HERITAGE TREE



*Green Meadows  
Recreation Center  
431 E. 89th St  
Los Angeles, CA 90003*

**Tel: (323) 750-4820**

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## African Sausage Tree *Kigelia africana*

Hello!!! Let me introduce myself... Botanists call me *Kigelia africana*, but you can refer to me as the African sausage tree. You may have overlooked my presence in the past but I am here to inform you of what a unique, interesting, and fascinating



Leaves



Trunk

tree I am. I am native to the old continent from Tropical Africa to Madagascar. Due to the curiosity of my flowers and my fruit, explorers transported me to different parts of the world. I am the only tree of my kind that is planted in this area; that is the reason why I need to be protected. I was planted several years ago to provide beauty to your Park. Please feel free to come over and visit me anytime. Inform your family and friends of my presence so that they can also admire my splendor and beauty.

### FLOWER

You may consider my flower as being a little bit strange and unusual. My flowers are very large and have the shape of a trumpet. They are brownish-red in coloration and they hang down from a long raceme. I



normally open my flowers at night because that is the time when my natural pollinator are active. In the tropical jungles of Africa, my flowers are pollinated by bats.



The bats visit my flowers to drink the sweet nectar that I make for them. The wrinkles in my flowers are used as a grip by the bats to prevent them from slipping from the flowers while they are drinking.



### FRUIT

One of my most interesting features is my fruit. My fruit can be from 1 to 2 feet in length and it can weigh several pounds. At maturity, my fruit acquires a brownish color and you will see it hanging from a woody stalk. To many people my fruit resembles a huge sausage and that is the reason why I was given the name of "THE SAUSAGE TREE".



Although my fruit may look succulent and delicious, please do not eat it. Eating the fruit may



give you a tummy ache. Even though my fruit is not edible, there is a group of people back in Africa called the KIKUYU who make a beverage by mixing the fruit with honey. Other groups of people also use my fruit as a herbal medicine.

When you see my fruit, please do not cut it. I want every visitor of the park to observe and admire my fruit.