



IRON WOOD

General Details	
Reference	https://biophilia.lk/database/plant/iron-wood-2
Scientific Name	<i>Mesua ferrea</i>
Sinhala Name	?? (NA)
Tamil Name	??????? (NAKA)
Other Common Names	Ceylon ironwood, Indian rose chestnut, Cobra saffron
Synonyms	
Plant Family	Clusiaceae
Plant Group	Angiosperms (Enclosed Seed)
Plant Types	Large Trees
Morphologies / Crown Architecture	<p>Conical Canopy</p> <p>Mop-Top Canopy</p> <p>Weeping Canopy</p> <p>Weeping Standard Canopy</p>

Categories	Aromatic Plants
	Bird Attractive Plants
	Border Plants
	Colorful Plants
	Common Landscaping Plants
	Courtyard Plants
	Dark Green Plants
	Dust Controlling Plants
	Endemic Plants of Sri Lanka
	Flowering Plants
	Herbal Plants
	High Leaves Density Plants
	Indigenous Plants of Sri Lanka
	Intermediate Zone Plants
	Low Maintenance Plants
	Medium Size Trees
	Ornamental Plants
	Parking Area Plants
	Roadside Plants
	Sacred Plants
	Seasonal Plant
	Shady Plants
	Sun Loving Plants
	Thick Green Plants
	Wet Zone Plants
	Wood Value Plants
	Evergreen Plants
	Noise Controlling Plants
	Decorative plants

Native Regions	<p>India</p> <p>Sri Lanka</p> <p>Nepal</p> <p>Indo-China</p> <p>Peninsular Malaysia</p> <p>Indonesia</p>
Distributions	Nepal eastwards, in north-eastern India, Deccan Peninsula and in the Andaman Islands
Habitat	Canopy tree in lowland evergreen forest on level or undulating land, usually along streams but also on ridges with shallow soils, sea-level up to 500m Also an understorey tree in montane evergreen or semi-evergreen forest
Elevation	Above sea level up to 1,000 m
Trunk / Bole / Stem & Branches	2m in diameter, often fluted or buttressed at the base
Average Height	15.00m
Maximum Height	30.00
Average Width	6.00m
Maximum Width	12.00
Root Systems	Tap Root
Propagations	<p>By Seeds</p> <p>By Cutting (Stem)</p>
Average Longevity	more than 75 years

Maturity Longevity	More than 12 years
Indoor	N/A
Medicinal Use	Yes
Medicinal Value	<p>The ashes of leaves are used for sore eyes. Kernels are used to poultice wounds and in skin eruptions. Leaf and flower are antidotes for snake bite and scorpion sting. The fixed oil is used for cutaneous infection, sores, scabies, wounds and rheumatism. The flower is stomachic, expectorant and astringent. The decoction or infusion or tincture of bark and roots is a bitter tonic and useful in gastritis, bronchitis and to cure snake bite.</p> <p>Parts Used in Treatment in Sinhala Ayurveda,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowers, • Flower buds • Flower Stems • Roots • Bark • Fruits • Seeds <p>Treats for,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piles • Cracked feet • Blood diarrhoea • Pruritus • Eczema • Worm infections
Benefits & Uses	<p>The wood of this tree is very heavy, hard and strong. It is hard to saw and is mainly used for railroad ties and heavy structural timber.</p> <p>In Sri Lanka the pillars of the 14th century Embekke Shrine near Kandy are made of iron tree wood.</p> <p>In eastern state of Assam, India, its seeds were also used for lighting purpose in evening for day to day purpose (while mustard oil for religious and health and culinary purposes) before the introduction of kerosene by the British.</p>
Special Features	National tree of Sri Lanka and state flower of Tripura and Mizoram

Plant Diseases	<p>Brown Cubical Rot</p> <p>White Sap</p> <p>Heart Rot</p> <p>Attacked by beetles and some borers.</p>
Foliage	
Leaf / Habit	Evergreen
Leaf Shape	Lanceolate shape
Arrangements	Simple
Leaf Arrangement	Opposite leaf arrangement
Leaves	<p>Leaf: grayish-green foliage with a beautiful pink to red flush of drooping young leaves</p> <p>Leaves: blue-grey to dark green leaves that are 7–15 cm (2.8–5.9 in) long and 1.5–3.5 cm (0.59–1.38 in) wide, with a whitish underside. new leaves are produced just after flowering at the start of rainy season</p>
Flowering	
Is Flowering ?	Yes
Blossoms	The bisexual flowers are 4–7.5 cm (1.6–3.0 in) in diameter, with four white petals and a center of numerous orange yellow stamens
Blooming Season	March; April; May; June; July
Fruiting	
Bears Fruits ?	Yes
Fruit	The fruit is an ovoid to globose capsule
Fruiting Season	October; November

Seeds	2m in diameter, often fluted or buttressed at the base
Maintenance	
Level	Low
Soil Types	Clay Soil Loam Soil Well Drained Soil
Water	Medium/Moderate
Sunlight	Full
Humidity	High
Edibility	
Is Edible ?	N/A
Legal Status	
Flora Fauna Protection Ordinance 2009 Amendment, Sri Lanka	Not Evaluated