



NEEM TREE

General Details	
Reference	https://biophilia.lk/database/plant/neem-tree
Scientific Name	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>
Sinhala Name	????? (KOHOMBA)
Tamil Name	?????? ???? (VEPPAI MARAM)
Other Common Names	Nimtree, Indian lilac
Synonyms	
Plant Family	Meliaceae
Plant Group	Angiosperms (Enclosed Seed)
Plant Types	Medium Tree
Morphologies / Crown Architecture	Spreading Canopy Weeping Standard Canopy

Categories	Agricultural plants Bird Attractive Plants Border Plants Canopy plants Common Landscaping Plants Courtyard Plants Dark Green Plants Dry Zone Plants Flowering Plants Forest Trees Fruiting Plants Herbal Plants High Leaves Density Plants Home Garden Plants Intermediate Zone Plants Large Trees Low Maintenance Plants Medium Size Trees Ornamental Plants Parking Area Plants Roadside Plants Shady Plants Sun Loving Plants Thick Green Plants Trees Wet Zone Plants Wild Plants Wind Controlling Plants Wood Value Plants
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Native Regions	Indian Subcontinent
Distributions	E. Asia - India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar
Habitat	Mixed forests. Evergreen lowland forests
Elevation	Above sea level up to 1,500 m
Average Height	15 - 20m
Maximum Height	40m
Average Width	20m
Maximum Width	25m
Root Systems	Tap Root
Propagations	By Seeds By Air Layering (Marcotting) By Cutting (Root)
Average Longevity	more than 75 years
Indoor	N/A
Medicinal Use	Yes
Medicinal Value	Leaves, Seeds, Roots and Bark for Fevers, Skin ailments, Wounds, Coughs, Asthma, Eye diseases and Worms in Sinhala Ayurveda

Benefits & Uses	<p>Dried leaves are insect repellent.</p> <p>Neem oil and leaves have the ability to cause some forms of toxic encephalopathy and ophthalmopathy if consumed in any quantity.</p> <p>Tree: the neem tree is of great importance for its anti-desertification properties and possibly as a good carbon dioxide sink.</p> <p>Fertilizer: Neem extract is added to fertilizers (urea) as a nitrification inhibitor.</p> <p>Soap: 80% of India's supply of neem oil now is used by neem oil soap manufacturers. Although much of it goes to small-scale speciality soaps, often using cold-pressed oil, large-scale producers also use it, mainly because it is cheap. Additionally it is antibacterial and antifungal, soothing, and moisturising. It can be made with up to 40% neem oil. Generally, the crude oil is used to produce coarse laundry soaps.</p> <p>Animal feed: Neem leaves can be occasionally used as forage for ruminants and rabbits</p>
Special Features	<p>Dried leaves are insect repellent. Neem oil and leaves have the ability to cause some forms of toxic encephalopathy and ophthalmopathy if consumed in any quantity. Tree: the neem tree is of great importance for its anti-desertification properties and possibly as a good carbon dioxide sink. Fertilizer: Neem extract is added to fertilizers (urea) as a nitrification inhibitor. Soap: 80% of India's supply of neem oil now is used by neem oil soap manufacturers. Although much of it goes to small-scale speciality soaps, often using cold-pressed oil, large-scale producers also use it, mainly because it is cheap. Additionally it is antibacterial and antifungal, soothing, and moisturising. It can be made with up to 40% neem oil. Generally, the crude oil is used to produce coarse laundry soaps. Animal feed: Neem leaves can be occasionally used as forage for ruminants and rabbits</p>
Plant Diseases	No serious insect or disease problems.
Foliage	
Leaf / Habit	Evergreen
Leaf Shape	Falcate shape
Arrangements	Simple
Leaf Arrangement	Opposite leaf arrangement

Leaves	20-40 cm long, with 20-31 medium to dark green leaflets about 3-8 cm long. The leaf stalks (petioles) are short. Very young leaves are reddish to purplish in colour. The shape of mature leaflets is more or less asymmetric and their margins are toothed (dentate).
Flowering	
Is Flowering ?	Yes
Blossoms	Arise from the junction of the stem and petiole (are arranged axillary), normally in more-or-less drooping flower clusters (panicles) which are up to 25 cm long. These branching inflorescences, bear from 150 to 250 flowers. An individual flower is 5-6 mm long and 8-11 mm wide.
Blooming Season	March; April
Fruiting	
Bears Fruits ?	Yes
Fruit	A smooth (glabrous) olive-like drupe which varies in shape from elongate oval to nearly roundish, and when ripe are 1.4-2.8 x 1.0-1.5 cm. The fruit skin is thin and turns yellow when ripe. The bitter-sweet pulp is yellowish-white and very fibrous. The pulp is 0.3-0.5 cm thick. The white, hard inner shell of the fruit encloses one, rarely two or three
Fruiting Season	May; June
Seeds	Elongated seeds (kernels) having a brown seed coat. Birds are known to gorge themselves on the fruits but they are extremely poisonous to mammals.
Maintenance	
Level	Medium

Soil Types	<p>Sandy Soil</p> <p>Clay Soil</p> <p>Loam Soil</p> <p>Acidic (pH 5.5>) to Alkaline (pH 8.5 <)</p> <p>Well Drained Soil</p>
Water	Medium/Moderate
Sunlight	Full
Humidity	Average
Edibility	
Is Edible ?	N/A
Legal Status	
Flora Fauna Protection Ordinance 2009 Amendment, Sri Lanka	Not Evaluated