

Azadirachta indica A. Juss.

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Tracheophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Sapindales

Family: Meliaceae

Genus: *Azadirachta*

Species: *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss

Popular names: Neem, Nimba, Nim, Limba, Vepa, Bevu.

Nature: Tree

Flowering time: May to June

Fruiting time: June to September

Plant distribution: It is mainly distributed in tropical regions.

Gardening notes:

1. Light: It grows well in full sun light.

2. Moisture: It is known for its drought tolerance.

3. Propagation: By cutting, layering or from fresh seeds.

Economic importance:

1. Bark is used in skin troubles.



2. Leaves considered antiseptic, applied to boils in the form of poultice; decoction given for ulcers and eczema.
3. Berries purgative, emollient.
4. Neem oil may be mixed with other oils and fats for the manufacture of washing soap; medicated soaps with odour of neem oil.
5. Fresh tender twigs used to clean teeth particularly in pyorrhoea.

Plant description: It is a large tree reaching to a height of 30 m;

1. **Root-** Tap root, branched; **Stem-** Aerial, erect, solid, woody, branched, cylindrical;
2. **Leaf-** Compound, unipinnate, paripinnate, green, alternate, 6-7 pairs of leaflets, leaflet 6-7 cm long, 2-3 cm wide, petiolate, petiole very small, 0.1-0.2 cm long, adaxial surface dark green, abaxial surface light green, prominent midrib, serrate margins, acuminate tip, prominent midrib, unequally shaped and divided leaflets on both sides of midrib;
3. **Inflorescence-** Cymose.
4. **Flower-** Small, actinomorphic, hermaphrodite, complete, pedicellate, pedicel small, light green; **Sepals-** 5, gamosepalous, light green, small, connate at the base, valvate aestivation, inferior; **Petals-** 5, polypetalous, creamish, valvate aestivation, petals folded outwards, inferior; **Stamens-** 10, filaments united to form a staminal tube of brown color, anthers yellow, dorsifixed, bilobed, longitudinal dehiscence, inferior; **Carpels-** 3, ovary superior, green, style 1 cm long, light green, stigma simple, creamish brown;
5. **Fruit-** Smooth, green, drupe which varies in shape from elongated oval to nearly roundish, 2 cm; **Seed-** Single, creamish brown, round, 2 cm.

Close up view of plant parts

