

***Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb.**

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae

Genus: *Dalbergia*

Species: *sissoo*



Popular names: Sissoo, Tahli, Shisham, Shisu, Sisam, Shinshapa.

Nature: Tree

Flowering time: April to May

Fruiting time: May to September

Plant distribution: It is native of the Indian Subcontinent and Southern Iran. It occurs throughout the Sub-Himalayan tract from Ravi to Assam and is extensively cultivated in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bengal and Assam.

Gardening notes:

- 1. Light:** It grows well in semi shade/sunlight.
- 2. Water:** It can tolerate medium drought conditions.
- 3. Propagation:** By seeds.

Economic importance:

1. The wood can be converted into ornamental veneers or commercial plywood of good quality.
2. It is used for shade purposes.
3. Leaves are used as fodder.
4. High class furniture and cabinet wood; also used for railway sleepers, musical instruments.
5. Yields a fixed oil.
6. Sissoo wood is classed among excellent fuel woods; also very suitable for charcoal-making.
7. It is also used for the treatment of fevers, pyuria, skin diseases and worm infestation.
8. Tree yields an excellent timber.

Plant description: A large deciduous tree reaching to a height of 35-40 feet;

Root- Tap root, branched; **Stem-** Aerial, erect, solid, woody, branched, cylindrical, hairy, bark- rough, dark grey or brown, furrowed vertically, flaking in narrow strips.

Leaf- Compound, pinnate, imparipinnate, petiolate, petiole 4 cm long, pulvinus at base, large crown, leaflets - 3, firm, blade 4-5 cm long, 3-5 cm wide, ovate, branched, alternate, petiolulate, petiolule green, small, 3-5 mm, hairy, adaxial surface dark green, abaxial surface light green, prominent and hairy midrib, unicostate reticulate venation, glaucous, entire, acuminate apex.

Inflorescence- Axillary panicles.

Flower- Yellowish, small, half-opening, regular, bisexual, sub-sessile, hypogynous, hermaphrodite, zygomorphic, complete, scented, numerous, inconspicuous, ebracteate; **Sepals-** 5, gamosepalous, green, unequal,

campanulate, pentafid, inferior, imbricate aestivation; Petals- 5, papilionaceous, one- standard (clawed and largest), two- wings, two- keels united, pale yellowish, inferior; Stamens- 9, monodelphous, filaments green, different sizes, anthers brown, basifixed, longitudinal dehiscence; Carpel- 1, ovary superior, pubescent, unilocular, marginal placentation, style simple, hairy, green, broader upper portion, stigma terminal, small, light brown.

Fruit- Small, flat, pod, 2-3 inch, green when immature and pale brown when mature, indehiscent pod, 2-3 seeds, hanging together in bunches; **Seed-** Small, thin, brown, flattened, kidney shaped.

Some close-up pictures of plant parts





Flora of KCH

Flora of KCH