

# *Melia azedarach* Linn.

## Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Tracheophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Sapindales

Family: Meliaceae

Genus: *Melia*

Species: *Melia azedarach* L.

**Popular names:** Mahanimba, Drek, Bakain, Ghora nim, Pejri, Padrai, Bakam limbodo, Turaka vepa, Malai vembu.

**Nature:** Tree

**Flowering time:** March to May

**Fruiting time:** June to August

**Plant distribution:** It is native of sub-tropical Asia.

**Gardening notes:**

1. **Light:** It requires full sun light.
2. **Moisture:** It can tolerate drought conditions.
3. **Propagation:** By seeds.

**Economic importance:**

1. Leaves, bark and fruits accredited with insect - repellent properties.
2. Leaf- juice anthelmintic, and diuretic.



3. A gum collected from the tree used in spleen enlargement and infusion of bark in ascariasis.
4. Wood used for toys, cigar and ammunition boxes, and other packing and museum cases; also suitable for agricultural implements, turnery, musical instruments and ornamental plywood.
5. Seeds yield a drying oil, suitable for soap-making and hair oils.
6. Fruits as tonic

**Plant description:** A medium sized tree reaching to a height of 30 feet;.

**Root-** Tap root, branched; **Stem-** Aerial, erect, solid, woody, cylindrical, branched; bark brown, rough.

**Leaf-** Compound, bipinnate, imparipinnate, green, 30-35 cm long and 25-30 cm wide, opposite, pedicellate, pedicel 7-9 cm long, green, pulvinus at base, leaflets 6-7, adaxial surface dark green, glaucous, abaxial surface light green, prominent midrib, unicostate reticulate venation, acuminate apex, dentate margins, petiolate, petiole small, green, 1-2 cm long.

**Inflorescence-** Racemose; **Flower-** Purple, small, complete, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic, pedicellate, pedicel green, small, fibrous, bracteate, bracts weak, brownish; **Sepals-** 5, pinkish green, gamosepalous, inferior, fibrous, valvate aestivation; **Petals-** 5, light pinkish purple, polypetalous, inferior, valvate aestivation, smooth, drooping outwards; **Stamens-** 10, inferior, filaments united to form staminal tube, staminal tube purple, thin, cylindrical, anthers yellow, basifixed, bilobed, longitudinal dehiscence; **Carpels-** 5, united, ovary superior, green, style green, small, tubular, stigma yellow .

**Fruit-** Ellipsoidal, yellow drupe, round, 2 cm long, single seeded.

**Seed-** Yellowish brown, round, 1 - 2 cm long.

**Some close-up pictures of plant parts**

