

Morus alba Linn.

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Tracheophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Rosales

Family: Moraceae

Genus: *Morus*

Species: *Morus alba* L.



Popular names: Toota, Tut, Tula, Chinni, Ambat, Shetur, Reshme chattu, Musukette, Hipnerle, Tuticoli, Mulberry.

Nature: Tree

Flowering time: November to December

Fruiting time: January to March

Plant distribution: It is native to china and in India, it is grown in the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Kashmir and the North-Western Himalayas.

Gardening notes:

1. **Light:** It grows best in full sun to partial shade.
2. **Moisture:** It is not a drought tolerant tree.
3. **Propagation:** By seeds.

Economic importance:

1. Fruit is eaten and also used for sore throat dyspepsia and melancholia.
2. Leaves are eaten as vegetable, also used as cattle fodder; mainly used for rearing silk worms, rich in calcium and a good source of vitamin C.

3. Wood is used chiefly for hockey sticks, rackets and their presses, cricket bats and stumps, and other sports goods.
4. Wood is also suitable for house-building, agricultural implements, furniture, spokes, poles, shafts, bent parts of carriages and carts, and for turnery.

Plant description: It is a small to medium sized tree, which grows to 10–20 m tall.;

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

Leaf- Simple, green, alternate, 10-12 cm long, 6-8 cm wide, acute, creante, lobed, petiolate, petiole green, fibrous, 4-5 cm long, on older trees, unlobed, cordate at the base and rounded to acuminate at the tip, and serrated on the margins.

Inflorescence- Catkin

Flower- Single-sex catkins, with catkins of both sexes being present on each tree; male catkins are 2–3.5 cm long, and female catkins 1–2 cm long, small, incomplete, petiolate, petiole small, green; **Sepals-** 4, small, polysepalous, green, valvate aestivation; **Petals-** absent; **Stamens-** 4, filaments minute, light brown, anthers bilobed, basifixed, light brown, longitudinal dehiscence; **Carpel-** 1, ovary rounded, style very small, stigma forked.

Fruit- 2–2.5 cm long, small, green when immature and reddish whrn mature, many seeded.

Seed- Brown, small, flat, pointed, 1-3 mm long.

Some close-up pictures of plant parts

