

Syzygium cumini (L.) Skeels

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Tracheophyta

Class : Magnoliopsida

Order : Myrtales

Family: Myrtaceae

Genus: *Syzygium*

Species: *Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels



Popular names: Jamun, Black plum, Java plum, Jambolan, Jambu, Nhaval, Kala Jam, Thabye, Neredam, Jamo.

Family: Myrtaceae

Nature: Tree

Flowering time: March to May

Fruiting time: June to August

Plant distribution: It is native to both monsoon and moist forests of South and South East Asia. It is well distributed all over India except the semi-arid parts of Rajasthan and Punjab. It also grows well in Australia.

Gardening notes:

- 1. Light:** It grows well in full sun light.
- 2. Water:** It cannot tolerate water over logging.
- 3. Propagation:** By seeds and layering.

Economic importance:

1. Ripe fruit is edible but the juice is astringent and dries the mouth.
2. A spirituous liquor as well as wine is prepared from fruits.
3. Also, the fruits are used for making jams, jellies, squashes etc.
4. Wood is used for construction, boat-building and commercial purposes.
5. Bark is used in dyeing and tanning and for coloring fishing nets.
6. Fresh bark juice mixed with milk is used in diarrhoea.
7. The seed powder about 15 gm. is administered orally thrice a day for 3 to 4 months in diabetes.
8. The bark is used in sore throats, bronchitis, asthma, ulcers and dysentery.
9. It is planted on roadsides as a shade plant.
10. The tree is one of the host plants for the tussar silkworm.

Plant description: A tall evergreen tree growing to a height of 25-30 feet with a dense shady much-branched crown.

Root- Tap root, branched; **Stem-** Aerial, erect, woody, branched, solid, cylindrical, bark- flaky and rough especially on lower trunk, thick, peels off in patches, greyish-brown.

Leaf- Simple, firm, leathery, smooth, leaf blade 7-10 cm long, 4-5 cm wide, branched, opposite, gland-dotted, adaxial surface dark green, abaxial surface light green, prominent midrib, unicostate reticulate venation, glaucous, ovate-ovate-lanceolate, entire, acuminate apex, aromatic, smooth, glaucous, lateral veins are very fine, parallel and run straight from the mid rib towards the margins and unite with intra-marginal vein which runs round the leaf close to the leaf margin, petiolate, petiole yellowish green, small, 2-4 cm long.

Inflorescence- Panicles.

Flower- Yellowish cream, small, regular, appear in large bunches, usually arranged in sets of three, bisexual, sub-sessile, epigynous, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic, complete, fragrant, pedicellate, pedicel 0.1-0.3 cm long, green, bracteate, bracteolate, bracts brown, small; Sepals- 5, gamosepalous, green, adnate to the ovary, funnel shaped, limb short, 4-5 lobed, superior; Petals- small, 4-5, rounded, concave, cohering, carried upwards by the unfolding of the stamens and falling off as the flower expands, gamopetalous, yellow, superior; Stamens- most conspicuous part of flower, numerous, in several series, much longer than the petals, inserted with them around the mouth of the calyx-tube, folded in the bud, superior, filaments- creamish, anthers- bithecous, basifixed, longitudinal dehiscence, creamish yellow; Carpel- 2-3, syncarpous, ovary inferior, 2-3 celled, ovules many in a cell, style simple, linear, stigma terminal, small.

Fruit- Berry, 4 cm long, succulent, oblong, dark-purple, single seeded, juicy and edible pulp.

Seed- One in each fruit, 1-2 cm, rounded, endospermic.

Some close-up pictures of plant parts

