

***Terminalia arjuna* (Roxb.) Wight & Arn.**

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Tracheophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Myrtales

Family: Combretaceae

Genus: *Terminalia*

Species: *Terminalia arjuna*
(Roxb.) Wight & Arn.



Popular names: Arjuna, Arjhan, Sanmadat, sadaru, Arjun, Arjan, Dhaula, Sad, Thella maddi, Holematti.

Nature: Tree

Flowering time: March to May

Fruiting time: May to July

Plant distribution: It is native of India and is commonly found in Central and South India to Sri Lanka along streams. It has been introduced into North India. It grows as an exotic species in China, Cuba, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand etc.

Gardening notes:

1. Light: It grows well in full sun.

2. Water: It requires moderate water supply.

3. Propagation: By seeds.

Economic importance:

1. The bark and ashes are used in dyeing and tanning.
2. Bark is styptic, tonic, febrifuge and anti-dysenteric.
3. The heartwood is very hard, but not very durable.
4. It is grown as an avenue tree.
5. Juice of leaves used in ear-ache.
6. The leaves are fed to Silkworms.
7. Plant has many other medicinal properties including anthelmintic, alexiteric and is also useful in fractures, ulcers, heart diseases, biliousness, urinary discharges, asthma, tumours etc.

Plant description: A deciduous tree reaching to a height of 30-35 feet m with a large spreading crown.

Root- Tap root, branched; **Stem-** Aerial, erect, branched, braches drooping, solid, woody, cylindrical, buttressed at the base, bark- grey, smooth, flaking off in thin layers.

Leaf- Simple, hard, leathery, opposite to subopposite, elliptic-oblong or oval, adaxial surface dark green, abaxial surface light green, blade 9-10 cm long, 4-6 cm wide, obtuse apex, cordate base, entire and undulate margins, prominent midrib and veins, with a pair of glands near the top of the leaf stalk, exstipulate, petiolate, petiole- 1-2 cm long, brownish green.

Inflorescence- Axillary spikes.

Flower- Small, near the tips of branches, cup shaped, creamish, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic, hypogynous, sessile, cup shaped, bracteate, bracts brown, curved, bracteolate, bracteole- brown; Sepals- 5, polysepalous, creamish, valvate aestivation; Petals- absent; Stamens – 8, unequal in length, lower opposite sepals and upper alternating the sepals, anthers- yellow, basifixed, longitudinal dehiscence, filaments- thin, creamish; Carpel- 1, ovary- inferior, unilocular, style- long, filiform, stigma- terminal; Fruit- Five angled, leathery, one seeded, indehiscent, woody; Seed- Hard, brown.

Some close-up pictures of plant parts





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