

***Thevetia nerifolia* Juss. ex Steud.**

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Tracheophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Gentianales

Family: Apocynaceae

Genus: *Thevetia*

Species: *Thevetia nerifolia*



Popular names: Yellow oleander, Pilikaner, Zard kunel, Kulkephul, Konyar phul.

Nature: Shrub

Flowering time: March to May

Fruiting time: May to September

Plant distribution: It is native of West India and is widely grown in India. Also well known in central and southern Mexico and Central America.

Gardening notes:

- 1. Light:** It can grow well in full sun light or also semi-shade.
- 2. Water:** Can tolerate medium drought conditions.
- 3. Propagation:** By seeds and cuttings.

Economic importance:

- 1.** Leaves are purgative and emetic.
- 2.** Bark used as febrifuge.
- 3.** Tincture of bark is cathartic and emetic.
- 4.** Roots are made into a plaster, applied to tumors.

5. Seeds possess abortifacient and purgative properties.
6. Seeds used to treat rheumatism and dropsy; also used as an alexeteric.
7. All parts of plant including latex are poisonous and contain glycosides which are active principles; of these peruvoside is the most important.
8. It is also used for the treatment of cardiac edema and malaria.
9. The kernels are bitter and if chewed produce numbness and heat to the tongue.
10. The plants are grown as ornamental; also as hedge plant.
10. Milky latex is poisonous, so animals do not disturb this plant.

Plant description: An evergreen shrub or small tree reaching to a height of 10 feet

Root- Tap root, branched; **Stem-** Aerial, erect, herbaceous above, woody below, branched, branches solid with latex, cylindrical, with latex, glaucous, bark- rough, light brown with shallow cracks on the whole surface studded with lenticels, exudes milky latex when cut.

Leaf- Simple, densely leafy, alternate, linear-lanceolate, sessile, blade 5-8 cm long, 0.5 cm wide, branched, solid with latex, acute apex, narrow base, adaxial surface dark green, abaxial surface light green, prominent midrib, unicostate reticulate venation, stipulate, 2 stipules at base of each leaf.

Inflorescence- Dichasial cyme.

Flower- Yellow, large, showy, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic, complete, regular, hypogynous, fragrant, bell shaped, pedicellate, pedicel 2.5-3 cm long, green, bracteate, bracteolate, bracts green, small; **Sepals-** 5, polysepalous, green, partite, campanulate, inferior, glands present at the base, quincuncial aestivation; **Petals-** 5, gamopetalous, yellow, funnel shaped, infundibulum, fragrant, twisted, corolla tube with a hairy outgrowth forming corona at the throat, inferior, twisted aestivation; **Stamens-** 5, epipetalous, alternipetalous, attached at the throat of corolla, filaments short and reduced, appendaged at the top, anthers bithecal, basifixed, longitudinal dehiscence, introse, inferior, creamish yellow; **Carpels-** 2, bicarpellary, syncarpous,

ovary superior, axile placentation, two ovules in each loculus, style filiform with swollen bilobed stigma, disc present below the ovary.

Fruit- A capsule or drupe, persistent sepals, green, single seed.

Seed- Hard, light brown.

Some close-up pictures of plant parts

