

The *Azadirachta indica*, commonly known as the neem tree, is native to the Indian subcontinent and is widely recognized for its various beneficial properties.

Height

- **Mature height:** Typically grows to about **15–20 meters**, though it can reach up to **30 meters** under optimal conditions.

Uses

1. **Medicinal:** Neem leaves, bark, and seeds have been used in traditional medicine for their antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and anti-parasitic properties. Commonly used for treating skin conditions, dental issues, and digestive problems.
2. **Agricultural:** Neem oil and neem cake are used as natural pesticides and fertilizers. The tree helps in organic farming practices.
3. **Personal care:** Neem extracts are used in skincare and haircare products for their anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties.
4. **Environmental:** The neem tree is used in reforestation and as a shade tree due to its fast growth and drought resistance.

Religious Importance

- In **Hinduism**, the neem tree is considered sacred and symbolizes purity and protection. It is often planted near temples and homes.
- **Neem leaves** are used in religious ceremonies and festivals, such as **Gudhi Padwa** (New Year in Maharashtra) and **Vishu** (Kerala New Year), for their auspicious and purifying properties.
- The tree is associated with the goddess **Lakshmi** (goddess of wealth) and is believed to bring prosperity and good health.