

Melia azedarach

Kingdom: Plantae
Order: Sapindales
Family: Meliaceae
Genus: Melia
Species: *Melia azedarach*



Melia azedarach, commonly known as **Chinaberry** or **Persian Lilac**, is a deciduous tree that belongs to the family Meliaceae. Here are key details about the plant:

Height:

- **Melia azedarach** typically grows to a height of **7 to 12 meters**, but under optimal conditions, it can reach up to **15 meters** or more.

Uses:

1. Medicinal Uses:

- **Traditional medicine:** The tree has been used in traditional medicine for its **antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and anthelmintic** properties. Its leaves and bark have been employed in treating **fever, ulcers, and intestinal worms**.
- **Insect repellent:** Its seeds and leaves are known to have insecticidal properties, often used to repel insects and pests.

2. Wood:

- **Timber:** The wood of **Melia azedarach** is durable, resistant to termites, and is used for making furniture, crafts, and agricultural tools.

3. Ornamental:

- It is often planted as an ornamental tree in parks and gardens due to its attractive, fragrant purple or lilac flowers and dense canopy.

4. Environmental:

- It can be used for **erosion control** in some areas, as the tree is hardy and can grow in poor soil conditions.

Religious and Cultural Importance:

- **India:** In some regions of India, *Melia azedarach* is considered a sacred tree, often planted near temples and sacred sites. Its association with religious rituals stems from its medicinal properties and its use in traditional ceremonies.
- **Symbolism:** The tree can also symbolize **purification** and **protection**, especially in folk traditions where its leaves are used to cleanse homes or spaces of negative energy.