

## *Tabernaemontana divaricata*

**Kingdom:** Plantae

**Clade:** Angiosperms

**Order:** Gentianales

**Family:** Apocynaceae

**Genus:** *Tabernaemontana*

**Species:** *T. Montana*



*Tabernaemontana*, commonly known as Pinwheel Flower, Crape Jasmine, or Nandivardhana, is a small evergreen shrub or tree native to tropical regions like South Asia and Africa. Here are the details:

### **Height:**

- *Tabernaemontana* usually grows to a height of 1 to 5 meters.

### **Uses:**

#### 1. Ornamental Uses:

- Garden Plant: Due to its beautiful white flowers and green foliage, the plant is often used as a decorative addition in gardens, parks, and around homes. Its pinwheel-shaped flowers and pleasing fragrance make it popular for landscaping.

#### 2. Medicinal Uses:

- Traditional Healing: In various traditional medicinal systems, including Ayurveda, the plant's leaves, bark, and flowers are used to help treat ailments such as fever, inflammation, and skin disorders. The plant contains alkaloids that are believed to have medicinal properties, though larger doses may be harmful.

#### 3. Other Uses:

- Fragrance Industry: The plant's fragrant flowers are sometimes used to create perfumes and essential oils.

### **Religious Importance:**

- Hindu Significance: The flowers of *Tabernaemontana*, especially known as Nandivardhana, are commonly used in Hindu temples for offerings to deities like Shiva and Vishnu. The white flowers are seen as a symbol of purity and are included in religious rituals and ceremonies.
- Cultural Symbolism: The plant is often associated with peace, protection, and purity in different cultural contexts, making it a common plant near temples and homes to bring a sense of calm and spiritual blessing.