Dalbergia sissoo Roxb.

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

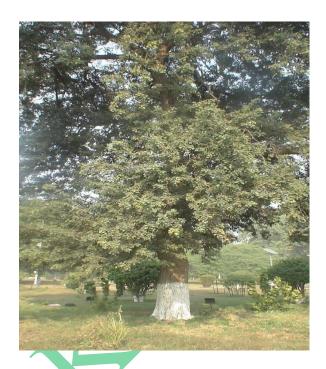
Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae

Genus: Dalbergia

Species: sissoo



Popular names: Sissoo, Tahli, Shisham, Shisu, Sisam, Shinshapa.

Nature: Tree

Flowering time: April to May

Fruiting time: May to September

Plant distribution: It is native of the Indian Subcontinent and Southern Iran. It occurs throughout the Sub-Himalayan tract from Ravi to Assam and is extensively cultivated in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bengal and Assam.

Gardening notes:

1. Light: It grows well in semi shade/sunlight.

2. Water: It can tolerate medium drought conditions.

3. Propagation: By seeds.

Economic importance:

- 1. The wood can be converted into ornamental veneers or commercial plywood of good quality.
- 2. It is used for shade purposes.
- 3. Leaves are used as fodder.
- 4. High class furniture and cabinet wood; also used for railway sleepers, musical instruments.
- 5. Yields a fixed oil.
- 6. Sissoo wood is classed among excellent fuel woods; also very suitable for charcoal-making.
- 7. It is also used for the treatment of fevers, pyuria, skin diseases and worm infestation.
- 8. Tree yields an excellent timber.

Plant description: A large deciduous tree reaching to a height of 35-40 feet; **Root-** Tap root, branched; Stem- Aerial, erect, solid, woody, branched, cylindrical, hairy, bark- rough, dark grey or brown, furrowed vertically, flaking in narrow strips.

Leaf- Compound, pinnate, imparipinnate, petiolate, petiole 4 cm long, pulvinus at base, large crown, leaflets - 3, firm, blade 4-5 cm long, 3-5 cm wide, ovate, branched, alternate, petiolulate, petiolule green, small, 3-5 mm, hairy, adaxial surface dark green, abaxial surface light green, prominent and hairy midrib, unicostate reticulate venation, glaucous, entire, acuminate apex.

Inflorescence- Axillary panicles.

Flower- Yellowish, small, half-opening, regular, bisexual, sub-sessile, hypogynous, hermaphrodite, zygomorphic, complete, scented, numerous, inconspicuous, ebracteate; Sepals- 5, gamosepalous, green, unequal,

campanulate, pentafid, inferior, imbricate aestivation; Petals- 5, papilionaceous, one- standard (clawed and largest), two- wings, two- geels united, pale yellowish, inferior; Stamens- 9, monodelphous, filaments green, different sizes, anthers brown, basifixed, longitudinal dehiscence; Carpel- 1, ovary superior, pubescent, unilocular, marginal placentation, style simple, hairy, green, broader upper portion, stigma terminal, small, light brown.

Fruit- Small, flat, pod, 2-3 inch, green when immature and pale brown when mature, indehiscent pod, 2-3 seeds, hanging together in bunches; Seed- Small, thin, brown, flattened, kidney shaped.

Some close-up pictures of plant parts

