Melia azedarach Linn.

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Tracheophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Sapindales

Family: Meliaceae

Genus: Melia

Species: Melia azedarach L.

Popular names: Mahanimba, Drek, Bakain, Ghora nim, Pejri, Padrai, Bakam limbodo, Turaka

vepa, Malai vembu.

Nature: Tree

Flowering time: March to May

Fruiting time: June to August

Plant distribution: It is native of sub-tropical Asia.

Gardening notes:

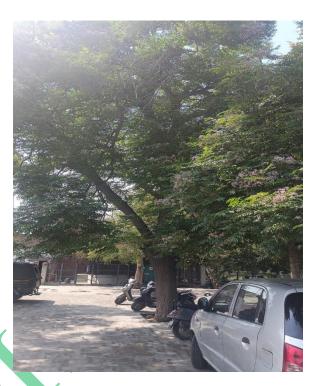
1. Light: It requires full sun light.

2. Moisture: It can tolerate drought conditions.

3. Propagation: By seeds.

Economic importance:

- 1. Leaves, bark and fruits accredited with insect repellent properties.
- 2. Leaf- juice anthelmintic, and diuretic.



- 3. A gum collected from the tree used in spleen enlargement and infusion of bark in ascariasis.
- 4. Wood used for toys, cigar and ammunition boxes, and other packing and museum cases; also suitable for agricultural implements, turnery, musical instruments and ornamental plywood.
- 5. Seeds yield a drying oil, suitable for soap-making and hair oils.
- 6. Fruits as tonic

Plant description: A medium sized tree reaching to a height of 30 feet;.

Root- Tap root, branched; Stem- Aerial, erect, solid, woody, cylindrical, branched; bark brown, rough.

Leaf- Compound, bipinnate, imparipinnate, green, 30-35 cm long and 25-30 cm wide, opposite, pedicellate, pedicel 7-9 cm long, green, pulvinus at base, leaflets 6-7, adaxial surface dark green, glaucous, abaxial surface light green, prominent midrib, unicostate reticulate venation, acuminate apex, dentate margins, petiolate, ptiole small, green, 1-2 cm long.

Inflorescence- Racemose; Flower- Purple, small, complete, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic, pedicellate, pedicel green, small, fibrous, bracteate, bracts weak, brownish; Sepals- 5, pinkish green, gamosepalous, inferior, fibrous, valvate aestivation; Petals- 5, light pinkish purple, polypetalous, inferior, valvate aestivation, smooth, drooping outwards; Stamens- 10, inferior, filaments united to form staminal tube, staminal tube purple, thin, cylindrical, anthers yellow, basifixed, bilobed, longitudinal dehiscence; Carpels- 5, united, ovary superior, green, style green, small, tubular, stigma yellow.

Fruit- Ellipsoidal, yellow drupe, round, 2 cm long, single seeded.

Seed- Yellowish brown, round, 1 - 2 cm long.

Some close-up pictures of plant parts

