

## *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis* Linn.

### Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Tracheophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Lamiales

Family: Oleaceae

Genus: *Nyctanthes* L.

Species: *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis* L.



**Popular Names:** Coral jasmine, Night jasmine, Harsinghar, Seoli, Parijata, Tree of Sorrow.

**Nature:** Tree

**Flowering time:** February to April

**Fruiting time:** May to July

**Plant distribution:** It is native of Southern Asia, from Northern Pakistan, and Nepal south through Northern India, Bangladesh and Southeast to Thailand.

### Gardening notes:

1. **Light:** It grows well in full to partial sun.
2. **Water:** It has average water needs.
3. **Propagation:** By seeds or cuttings.

### Economic importance:

1. Fragrant flowers esteemed as offerings in temples and made into garlands.

2. They yield an essential oil similar to jasmine.
3. Corolla tubes contain a coloring matter identical to that obtained from saffron.
4. Seeds yield a fixed oil.
5. Leaves used in rheumatism and fever; decoction given in sciatica.
6. Powdered seeds used for scurfy affections of the scalp.
7. Also used for the treatment of sciatica, hemorrhoids, worm infestation, bronchitis.
8. Leaves, which are rough like sand paper serve for polishing wood and utensils.
9. Useful for afforesting denuded Himalayan slopes where it spreads quickly.

**Plant description:** It is a large deciduous shrub or a small tree growing to 10 m tall;

**Root-** Tap root, branched; **Stem-** Aerial, erect, branched, solid, cylindrical, green, fibrous, bark- pale or dark grey, sometimes greenish, rough, somewhat wrinkled.

**Leaf-** Simple, green, cordate, opposite, blade 10-12 cm long, 6-8 cm wide, stiff with white hairs, acute apex, oblique base, entire margins, adaxial surface dark green, abaxial surface light green, prominent midrib and veins, unicostate reticulate venation, petiolate, petiole- brownish green, 1-2 cm long, fibrous, stipulate, stipules brown, small.

**Inflorescence-** Cymose.

**Flower-** Small, attractive, white with orange-red centre, drooping, fragrant, bracteate, bracteolate, bracts and bracteoles- small, green, fibrous, bisexual, complete, hermaphrodite, hypogynous, actinomorphic, almost sessile, open in the evening and drop the next morning; Sepals -5, gamosepalous, green, inferior, cup shaped, fibrous outer surface, valvate aestivation; Petals – 8, polypetalous, salver-shaped, white with thin orangish corolla tube which is thin, inferior, imbricate aestivation; Stamens- 2, inserted near the tip of the corolla tube, epipetalous, filaments- orange, anthers- very

short stalked, yellow, dorsifixed, longitudinal dehiscence; Carpels – 2, ovary- superior, fleshy, green, swollen, style almost as long as corolla tube, green, stigma- bifid.

**Fruit-** Flat, 1 cm wide, green when immature and brown when mature, heart shaped to round capsule, persistent calyx, and two section, each having a single seed.

**Seed-** Small, thin, brownish, rounded and flattened.

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**Some close-up pictures of plant parts**



