

## Scientific Name:

*Cassia fistula*

## Common Name:

- Golden Shower Tree
- Indian Laburnum
- Amaltas

## Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A medium-sized deciduous tree that typically grows to a height of 10-20 meters. It has a spreading crown with drooping branches, giving the tree a graceful, umbrella-like appearance.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are compound, measuring 30-40 cm long, with 4-8 pairs of oblong leaflets, each about 5-15 cm long. They are bright green and turn yellow before falling off in the dry season.
- **Flowers:** The tree is famous for its spectacular, hanging clusters of bright yellow flowers that bloom in late spring to summer. The flowers are large, fragrant, and borne in long, pendulous racemes up to 50 cm in length, creating a cascading effect.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a long, cylindrical pod, measuring 30-60 cm in length and about 2-2.5 cm in diameter. It is dark brown to black when mature and contains numerous seeds separated by a sweet, sticky pulp.
- **Bark:** The bark is smooth and light gray when young, becoming rough and brown with age.

## Cultural Importance:

- *Cassia fistula* holds significant cultural and religious value in South Asia. It is considered a sacred tree in India and is associated with the festival of Vishu, celebrated in Kerala. In Buddhism, the golden flowers are used as offerings and symbols of renewal and prosperity.
- It is the national tree and flower of Thailand, symbolizing Thai royalty.

## Uses:

- **Medicinal:**
  - The pulp of the fruit is used in traditional medicine as a natural laxative. Various parts of the tree, including the bark and leaves, are used to treat skin conditions, fever, and digestive problems.
- **Ornamental:**

- The tree is widely planted for its stunning, golden flowers and is often used in landscaping for parks, gardens, and streetscapes due to its attractive appearance.
- **Culinary:**
  - Although not commonly consumed, the pulp of the fruit can be eaten in small amounts or used in traditional remedies.
- **Environmental:**
  - *Cassia fistula* is a good tree for reforestation projects and is known to improve soil fertility.

### Picture Description:

- **Whole Tree:** A medium-sized tree with drooping branches and a wide, spreading crown. The tree is covered with hanging clusters of bright yellow flowers during the blooming season.
- **Leaves:** Compound leaves with 4-8 pairs of oblong leaflets, bright green, each about 5-15 cm long.
- **Flowers:** Large, fragrant yellow flowers borne in long, hanging racemes up to 50 cm in length, creating a cascading effect.
- **Fruit:** Long, cylindrical pods, dark brown to black when mature, measuring 30-60 cm in length, containing seeds separated by a sticky pulp.
- **Bark:** Smooth and light gray when young, becoming rough and brown with age.



