

Scientific Name:

Cestrum nocturnum

Common Name:

- Night-Blooming Jasmine
- Queen of the Night
- Lady of the Night

Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A fast-growing, evergreen shrub that can reach up to 4 meters in height, with a bushy and dense form.
- **Leaves:** Simple, lance-shaped, and bright green, around 6-12 cm long, with a smooth texture.
- **Flowers:** Small, tubular, pale greenish-white flowers that bloom at night and are highly fragrant. The flowers grow in clusters and open in the evening, releasing a sweet, intense scent that is strongest at night.
- **Fruits:** The plant produces small, white berries, each containing several seeds.
- **Bark:** Thin and smooth, green when young, turning woody as the plant matures.

Cultural Importance:

- In many tropical and subtropical cultures, *Cestrum nocturnum* is valued for its sweet fragrance, which is believed to bring positive energy and harmony to the home.
- The plant is often associated with romantic and spiritual symbolism due to its night-blooming nature and strong fragrance, which is said to evoke feelings of calm and intimacy.
- It is frequently used in gardens, particularly around homes and religious places, for its ornamental and aromatic qualities.

Uses:

- **Ornamental:**
 - *Cestrum nocturnum* is popular in gardens and landscapes for its highly fragrant night-blooming flowers. It is often planted near patios, windows, and pathways so that its scent can be enjoyed in the evening.
 - The shrub is also used in hedges and screens due to its dense foliage and rapid growth.
- **Medicinal:**
 - In traditional medicine, the plant has been used to treat a variety of conditions, including asthma, colds, and headaches.
 - However, the plant is toxic if ingested, especially the berries, which contain toxic alkaloids. Care should be taken to avoid accidental ingestion.
- **Cultural:**

- Due to its night-blooming habit, the plant is often associated with nighttime rituals and spiritual practices in some cultures, where it is believed to bring good luck or enhance meditation.
- The plant's strong fragrance is sometimes used in traditional perfumes and aromatic oils.

Picture Description:

- **Whole Plant:** A large, bushy evergreen shrub with dense green foliage and clusters of small, tubular, greenish-white flowers that bloom in the evening.
- **Leaves:** Lance-shaped, smooth, and bright green, about 6-12 cm long.
- **Flower:** Small, tubular, greenish-white flowers growing in clusters, which open at night and release a powerful sweet fragrance.
- **Fruit:** Small, white berries, each containing multiple seeds.
- **Bark:** Thin, smooth, and green on younger branches, becoming woody and light brown as the plant matures.

