

Scientific Name:

Jasminum sambac

Common Name:

- Arabian Jasmine
- Sambac Jasmine
- Thai Jasmine

Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A perennial shrub or vine that typically grows to a height of 1-3 meters. It has a climbing habit, often requiring support to grow upright. The stems are thin and flexible.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are simple, opposite, and elliptical to ovate in shape, measuring about 4-10 cm long. They are dark green, glossy, and have a smooth texture.
- **Flowers:** The plant is renowned for its fragrant, star-shaped flowers that bloom in clusters. The flowers are usually white, although they can also appear in shades of pale yellow. Each flower has five to nine petals and blooms primarily at night.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a small, dark purple to black berry that is typically around 1-2 cm long. Each fruit contains one or two seeds.
- **Bark:** The bark is greenish when young, becoming brown and woody as the plant matures.

Cultural Importance:

- *Jasminum sambac* is highly valued in many cultures for its fragrance and is often used in religious and ceremonial contexts. In some cultures, it is associated with love and purity.
- In India, the flowers are often used in garlands for weddings and festivals, and they hold cultural significance in various traditional practices.
- The plant is also used in traditional medicine in some regions, believed to have therapeutic properties.

Uses:

- **Ornamental:**
 - The plant is commonly grown for its beautiful and fragrant flowers, making it a popular choice for gardens, patios, and as an indoor plant.
 - It is often used in landscaping and as a decorative vine on trellises and fences.
- **Culinary:**

- The flowers are sometimes used in culinary applications, particularly in Southeast Asian cuisines, to flavor rice and desserts. They are also used to make jasmine tea.
- **Medicinal:**
 - Traditionally, the flowers and leaves have been used in herbal remedies for various ailments, including headaches and anxiety, although scientific validation of these uses is limited.
- **Fragrance:**
 - The flowers are harvested for their essential oil, which is widely used in perfumes, aromatherapy, and cosmetics due to their strong fragrance.

Picture Description:

- **Whole Plant:** A perennial shrub or vine with slender stems and lush green foliage, displaying clusters of fragrant, star-shaped white flowers.
- **Leaves:** Dark green, glossy, elliptical to ovate leaves that are simple and arranged oppositely along the stems.
- **Flower:** Star-shaped, fragrant flowers that are typically white, with five to nine petals, blooming in clusters.
- **Fruit:** Small, dark purple to black berries that are typically around 1-2 cm long, containing one or two seeds.
- **Bark:** Greenish bark when young, turning brown and woody as the plant matures.

