

Scientific Name:

Melia azedarach

Common Name:

- Chinaberry Tree
- Paradise Tree
- Persian Lilac

Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A deciduous tree that typically reaches heights of 10-15 meters, with a broad, spreading crown and a straight trunk. It has a graceful appearance, often used in landscaping.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are compound and pinnate, measuring about 20-50 cm long. Each leaf has 5-9 leaflets that are elongated and finely serrated, with a glossy dark green color. The leaves emit a strong aromatic scent when crushed.
- **Flowers:** The flowers are small, fragrant, and lilac to pale purple in color, grouped in panicles. They bloom in clusters in late spring to early summer and attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a round, yellow to orange berry about 1-2 cm in diameter. Each fruit contains one seed and can be toxic if ingested in large quantities. The fruit matures in late summer and can persist on the tree into winter.
- **Bark:** The bark is grayish-brown, rough, and fissured, becoming more textured with age.

Cultural Importance:

- *Melia azedarach* has been widely used in traditional medicine in various cultures, particularly in Asia. The tree is known for its medicinal properties, although caution is advised due to potential toxicity.
- In many regions, it is planted as an ornamental tree for its attractive foliage and fragrant flowers.

Uses:

- **Ornamental:**
 - The Chinaberry Tree is often used in landscaping for its attractive appearance and fragrant flowers. It is commonly planted in parks and along streets.
- **Medicinal:**
 - Various parts of the tree, including the leaves and bark, have been used in traditional medicine for their purported anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and insecticidal properties. However, caution is advised as some parts of the tree can be toxic.

- **Ecological:**
 - The tree provides habitat for various birds and insects, contributing to local biodiversity. The flowers attract pollinators.
- **Wood:**
 - The wood is durable and has been used for making furniture, carvings, and other wooden products.

Picture Description:

- **Whole Tree:** A deciduous tree with a broad, spreading crown and straight trunk, displaying attractive foliage and fragrant flowers.
- **Leaves:** Compound, pinnate leaves with elongated, finely serrated leaflets that are glossy dark green and aromatic when crushed.
- **Flower:** Small, lilac to pale purple flowers grouped in panicles, blooming in clusters in late spring to early summer.
- **Fruit:** Round, yellow to orange berries that are about 1-2 cm in diameter, containing one seed.
- **Bark:** Grayish-brown, rough, and fissured bark that becomes more textured with age.

