

## Scientific Name:

*Moringa oleifera*

## Common Name:

- Drumstick Tree
- Miracle Tree
- Ben Oil Tree

## Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A fast-growing, deciduous tree that typically reaches heights of 5-10 meters but can grow taller under ideal conditions. It has a slender trunk and an open canopy.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are compound and pinnate, consisting of small, oval leaflets that are bright green. They are highly nutritious and can be consumed raw or cooked. The leaves have a feathery appearance and grow in clusters.
- **Flowers:** The flowers are small, fragrant, and usually white with yellow or purple accents. They are borne in clusters and bloom primarily in spring and summer. The flowers are also edible and attract pollinators.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a long, cylindrical pod that resembles a drumstick, hence the common name. The pods can grow up to 30 cm in length and contain several seeds surrounded by a fleshy, edible pulp.
- **Bark:** The bark is smooth and greenish-brown when young, becoming rougher and gray as the tree matures.

## Cultural Importance:

- *Moringa oleifera* is highly valued in many cultures for its nutritional and medicinal properties. It is often referred to as a "miracle tree" due to its numerous health benefits.
- In various regions, particularly in South Asia and Africa, it is an important source of food and traditional medicine.

## Uses:

- **Culinary:**
  - The leaves, flowers, and immature pods (drumsticks) are commonly used in cooking. The leaves can be added to salads, soups, and curries, while the pods are often used in stews and curries.
- **Nutritional:**
  - The leaves are rich in vitamins, minerals, and protein, making them a valuable addition to diets, especially in regions facing malnutrition.
- **Medicinal:**
  - Various parts of the tree have been used in traditional medicine to treat a wide range of ailments, including inflammation, diabetes, and

digestive issues. Scientific research supports some of these claims, highlighting the tree's antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.

- **Agricultural:**
  - The leaves and pods can be used as animal fodder, and the tree is often planted in agroforestry systems for its soil-improving qualities.
- **Ecological:**
  - The tree can thrive in poor soils and helps combat soil erosion. Its flowers attract various pollinators.

### Picture Description:

- **Whole Tree:** A slender, deciduous tree with an open canopy, displaying lush green foliage and long, cylindrical pods.
- **Leaves:** Compound, pinnate leaves with small, oval leaflets that are bright green and highly nutritious.
- **Flower:** Small, fragrant white flowers with yellow or purple accents, blooming in clusters.
- **Fruit:** Long, cylindrical pods (drumsticks) that can grow up to 30 cm in length, containing seeds and fleshy pulp.
- **Bark:** Smooth and greenish-brown when young, becoming rougher and gray with age.

