

Scientific Name:

Morus alba

Common Name:

- White Mulberry
- Common Mulberry

Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A deciduous tree that typically grows to a height of 10-15 meters, with a broad, spreading canopy. It has a short trunk and can have a gnarled appearance as it matures.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are alternate, simple, and vary in shape (from ovate to lobed), measuring about 5-15 cm long. They are dark green and have a serrated margin. The leaves are also known for their high nutritional value, particularly for silkworms.
- **Flowers:** The flowers are small and inconspicuous, typically appearing in spring. They are unisexual, with male and female flowers occurring on separate trees.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a small, edible mulberry, about 1-2 cm long, resembling blackberries in appearance. The fruit turns from white to pink to dark purple when ripe and is sweet, juicy, and often used in jams and desserts.
- **Bark:** The bark is grayish-brown, smooth when young, and becomes more rugged and furrowed with age.

Cultural Importance:

- *Morus alba* has significant cultural and economic importance, particularly in sericulture, as the leaves are the primary food source for silkworms. This tree has been cultivated for centuries for silk production.
- In many cultures, the fruit is harvested for consumption and has traditional uses in folk medicine.

Uses:

- **Culinary:**
 - The ripe fruits are sweet and edible, used in various culinary applications, including jams, jellies, wines, and desserts. The leaves can also be used in salads or teas.
- **Agricultural:**
 - The leaves are primarily used as fodder for silkworms in silk production. The tree is often planted in mulberry farms for this purpose.
- **Medicinal:**

- In traditional medicine, parts of the tree have been used to treat various ailments, including respiratory issues and inflammation. The fruit is also believed to have antioxidant properties.
- **Ornamental:**
 - The tree is sometimes planted for ornamental purposes due to its attractive foliage and fruit. It can also provide shade in gardens and parks.
- **Ecological:**
 - The tree provides habitat for various wildlife species and attracts birds with its fruit.

Picture Description:

- **Whole Tree:** A deciduous tree with a broad, spreading canopy and a short trunk, often with a gnarled appearance.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, simple leaves that vary in shape, measuring about 5-15 cm long, dark green with serrated margins.
- **Flower:** Small, inconspicuous flowers that appear in spring, unisexual, with separate male and female flowers on different trees.
- **Fruit:** Small, edible mulberries that change color from white to pink to dark purple as they ripen, about 1-2 cm long, resembling blackberries.
- **Bark:** Grayish-brown bark that is smooth when young and becomes rugged and furrowed with age.

