

Scientific Name:

Polyalthia longifolia

Common Name:

- Ashoka Tree
- Long Leaf Polyalthia

Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A tall evergreen tree that typically grows to a height of 15-25 meters. It has a straight trunk with a pyramidal or conical shape, giving it a stately appearance.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are long, narrow, and lanceolate, measuring about 10-20 cm long. They are dark green, glossy, and arranged spirally along the branches, often giving the tree a lush look.
- **Flowers:** The flowers are small, pale yellow or greenish, and occur in clusters. They are not particularly showy but have a pleasant fragrance and bloom in the spring and summer.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a small, fleshy berry that is approximately 1-2 cm in diameter, turning from green to brown as it ripens. Each fruit contains one or two seeds.
- **Bark:** The bark is smooth and grayish-brown, becoming slightly rougher with age.

Cultural Importance:

- The Ashoka tree holds significant cultural importance in India and is often associated with love, sorrow, and happiness. In Hindu tradition, it is considered a sacred tree, often planted near temples and used in religious ceremonies.
- It is also valued for its shade and aesthetic appeal, making it a popular choice for landscaping and parks.

Uses:

- **Ornamental:**
 - The tree is commonly planted in gardens, parks, and along roadsides for its tall, elegant stature and dense foliage, providing shade and beauty.
- **Medicinal:**
 - In traditional medicine, various parts of the tree are used for their supposed health benefits, including treatment for digestive issues and respiratory ailments.
- **Cultural Symbolism:**

- The Ashoka tree is often planted for its symbolic meaning and is featured in many cultural and religious contexts in India.

Picture Description:

- **Whole Tree:** A tall evergreen tree with a straight trunk and pyramidal shape, providing a stately appearance.
- **Leaves:** Long, narrow, lanceolate leaves that are dark green, glossy, and spirally arranged along the branches.
- **Flower:** Small, pale yellow or greenish flowers in clusters, blooming in the spring and summer.
- **Fruit:** Small, fleshy berries about 1-2 cm in diameter, turning from green to brown as they ripen, containing one or two seeds.
- **Bark:** Smooth, grayish-brown bark that becomes slightly rougher with age.

