

Scientific Name:

Senna occidentalis

Common Name:

- Coffee Senna
- Kasod Tree
- Senna

Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A small to medium-sized deciduous shrub or small tree, typically growing to a height of 1-3 meters. It has a bushy appearance with multiple stems branching from the base.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are compound and pinnate, consisting of 5-8 leaflets that are oval to elliptic in shape. Each leaflet measures about 3-7 cm long, and the leaves are bright green and smooth, with a slightly glossy appearance.
- **Flowers:** The flowers are bright yellow, typically 5-petaled, and arranged in racemes or clusters. Each flower measures about 2-4 cm in diameter and blooms during the rainy season, attracting various pollinators.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a long, flat, brown pod that can reach lengths of 5-10 cm and contains several seeds. The pods turn brown and split open when mature to release the seeds.
- **Bark:** The bark is grayish-brown and relatively smooth, becoming rougher with age.

Cultural Importance:

- *Senna occidentalis* is known for its traditional uses in various cultures, particularly in Africa and South America. The plant is often associated with medicinal properties and is used in folk medicine.
- The seeds and leaves are sometimes used in rituals and traditional practices.

Uses:

- **Medicinal:**
 - Traditionally, various parts of the plant are used to treat a variety of ailments, including digestive issues, skin conditions, and fevers. The leaves and seeds are particularly noted for their laxative properties.
- **Aromatic:**
 - The leaves are sometimes used to produce a herbal tea known for its medicinal benefits.
- **Ornamental:**
 - The plant is occasionally grown for its attractive yellow flowers and is suitable for landscaping and as a garden shrub.
- **Agricultural:**

- The plant is often used in agroforestry systems for its nitrogen-fixing properties, improving soil quality.

Picture Description:

- **Whole Plant:** A small to medium-sized shrub or small tree with a bushy appearance and multiple stems branching from the base, often bearing yellow flowers.
- **Leaves:** Compound pinnate leaves with 5-8 oval to elliptic leaflets that are bright green and smooth, measuring about 3-7 cm long.
- **Flower:** Bright yellow, 5-petaled flowers arranged in racemes or clusters, measuring about 2-4 cm in diameter.
- **Fruit:** Long, flat brown pods that reach lengths of 5-10 cm, containing several seeds that turn brown and split open when mature.
- **Bark:** Grayish-brown bark that is relatively smooth and becomes rougher with age.

