

Scientific Name:

Tectona grandis

Common Name:

- Teak
- Tectona

Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A large deciduous tree that typically grows to a height of 30-40 meters, with a straight trunk that can reach a diameter of up to 1 meter. It has a broad, spreading crown and can live for over 100 years.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are large, simple, and opposite, measuring about 20-45 cm long and 15-30 cm wide. They are rough on the upper surface and soft, hairy on the underside, with a heart-shaped base. The leaves are a vibrant green, turning yellow in the fall.
- **Flowers:** The flowers are small, fragrant, and white to pale yellow, borne in large, dense clusters (panicles) that can reach up to 30 cm in length. They bloom in the summer, attracting bees and other pollinators.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a small, round drupe, about 1.5-2.5 cm in diameter, that is typically green when young and turns brown as it matures. Each fruit contains one or two seeds.
- **Bark:** The bark is grayish-brown, thick, and rough, often peeling off in irregular patches as the tree matures.

Cultural Importance:

- *Tectona grandis* is highly valued for its timber, considered one of the best hardwoods due to its durability and resistance to water, insects, and decay. It is culturally significant in many countries, particularly in Southeast Asia, where it is often used in traditional boat building and furniture making.
- In some cultures, the tree is also associated with various religious beliefs and practices.

Uses:

- **Timber:**
 - The primary use of teak wood is in the furniture industry, boat building, and flooring. Its natural oils make it highly resistant to moisture and pests, making it ideal for outdoor use.
- **Culinary:**
 - In some regions, young leaves are used as a vegetable, and the flowers are used to make herbal tea.
- **Aromatic:**

- The leaves and flowers are sometimes used for their pleasant fragrance in traditional practices.
- **Medicinal:**
 - Traditional medicine uses various parts of the tree for their purported health benefits, including anti-inflammatory and antidiarrheal properties.

Picture Description:

- **Whole Tree:** A large deciduous tree with a straight trunk and a broad, spreading crown, often displaying a mix of green leaves and clusters of white flowers during blooming season.
- **Leaves:** Large, simple leaves that are about 20-45 cm long, rough on the upper surface and soft on the underside, heart-shaped at the base.
- **Flower:** Small, fragrant flowers that are white to pale yellow, borne in large clusters (panicles) reaching up to 30 cm in length.
- **Fruit:** Small, round drupes about 1.5-2.5 cm in diameter, green when young and turning brown as they mature, containing one or two seeds.
- **Bark:** Thick, grayish-brown bark that is rough and often peels off in irregular patches.

