

## Scientific Name:

*Terminalia catappa*

## Common Name:

- Indian Almond
- Tropical Almond
- Badam Tree

## Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A large deciduous tree that typically grows to a height of 15-30 meters, with a broad, umbrella-shaped canopy. It has a straight trunk that can reach up to 1 meter in diameter.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are large, simple, and oblong, measuring about 10-30 cm long and 6-15 cm wide. They are arranged in a whorled pattern at the ends of branches, initially dark green, turning reddish and then brown before falling in the dry season.
- **Flowers:** The flowers are small, yellowish-green, and borne in spikes or clusters. Each flower has five petals and is typically around 1-2 cm in diameter. The tree blooms from spring to summer, attracting bees and other pollinators.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a drupe, about 4-8 cm long, and resembles a small green almond, turning brown as it ripens. The fruit is edible and contains a single seed.
- **Bark:** The bark is rough, grayish-brown, and deeply fissured, giving it a distinctive texture.

## Cultural Importance:

- *Terminalia catappa* is culturally significant in many tropical regions, often planted for its shade and ornamental value. The fruit is consumed in some cultures, and the leaves are sometimes used in traditional medicine.
- The tree is also valued for its ability to improve soil quality and is used in agroforestry systems.

## Uses:

- **Culinary:**
  - The edible fruit is enjoyed fresh or used to make jams, jellies, and desserts. The seeds are sometimes consumed after being roasted.
- **Medicinal:**
  - Various parts of the tree, including the leaves and bark, are used in traditional medicine for their antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties.
- **Aromatic:**

- The tree's foliage and flowers are used for ornamental purposes and have a pleasant aroma.
- **Wood:**
  - The wood is durable and resistant to water, making it suitable for construction, furniture, and boat building.

### Picture Description:

- **Whole Tree:** A large deciduous tree with a broad, umbrella-shaped canopy, providing ample shade.
- **Leaves:** Large, oblong leaves measuring about 10-30 cm long, dark green when healthy, turning reddish-brown before falling.
- **Flower:** Small, yellowish-green flowers in spikes or clusters, each around 1-2 cm in diameter.
- **Fruit:** Drupe-shaped fruits about 4-8 cm long, resembling small green almonds, turning brown when ripe.
- **Bark:** Rough, grayish-brown bark with deep fissures, giving a distinct texture to the trunk

