

Aegle marmelos: The Bael Tree



Kingdom: Plantae
Clade: Angiosperms
Order: Sapindales
Family: Rutaceae
Genus: Aegle
Species: *A. marmelos*

Aegle marmelos, commonly known as Bael or Bilwa, is a medium-sized, deciduous tree native to India and Southeast Asia. It holds significant cultural and medicinal importance in these regions.

Characteristic Features

Size: Medium sized tree, typically reaching heights of 10-15 meters.

Leaves: Trifoliate leaves with three leaflets.

Flowers: Small, greenish yellow flowers with a strong fragrance.



Fruit: Hard, spherical fruit with a thick, green rind. The interior pulp is yellow, sweet, and aromatic.

Uses

Medicinal: The most prominent use of Bael is in traditional medicine. Almost every part of the tree, including the fruit, leaves, bark, and roots, is used for treating various ailments like digestive disorders, diarrhea, dysentery, and fever.

Culinary: The ripe fruit is consumed as a refreshing drink or dessert. It's also used to make jams, jellies, and chutneys.

Religious: Bael is considered sacred in Hinduism and is often planted near temples.

Timber: The wood is used for making agricultural implements and furniture.

