

Dalbergia sissoo



Common Names

TamilKottakarantai
Hindi: Sheesham
Punjabi: Sharai
Gujarati: Sheesham
Bengali: Sisam
Marathi: Sheeshav
Telugu: Shishupu

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Angiosperms

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae

Genus: Dalbergia

Species: D. sissoo

Binomial Name: Dalbergia sissoo

Characteristic Features

Appearance: It is a medium to large deciduous tree, growing up to 25 meters in height with a trunk diameter of up to 23 meters. The bark is gray to dark brown, with longitudinal fissures.

Leaves: The leaves are alternate, pinnately compound, and around 15 cm long, with 37 leaflets.

Flowers: The small white to pink flowers bloom in the late winter to spring.

Fruit: The fruit is a thin pod, about 510 cm long, containing 15 seeds.



Habitat

Native Range: India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Iran.

Preferred Conditions: Dalbergia sissoo thrives in riverine environments and is commonly found along riverbanks. It grows best in well drained soils and can tolerate dry conditions, although it prefers moist climates.

Uses

Wood: The wood of Dalbergia sissoo is highly valued for its durability, strength, and beauty. It is commonly used in furniture making, cabinetry, flooring, and as a veneer. It's also used in making musical instruments and carving.

Medicinal: Various parts of the tree have been used in traditional medicine to treat ailments such as skin diseases, wounds, and digestive issues.

Environmental: It is used for afforestation and reforestation projects. It provides shade and is also planted as a roadside tree.

Conservation

Dalbergia sissoo is not currently listed as endangered, but its populations are affected by overexploitation for its valuable wood and habitat loss due to agricultural expansion and urban development.

