

Ficus religiosa

Kingdom: Plantae
Clade: Tracheophytes
Order: Rosales
Family: Moraceae
Genus: Ficus
Species: F. religiosa
Scientific Name: Ficus religiosa



Ficus religiosa, commonly known as the sacred fig or peepal tree, is referred to by various names in different Indian languages:

Hindi: Peepal, Pipal, Ashvattha

Bengali: Ashatha

Tamil: Arasamaram

Malayalam: Arayal

Telugu: Raavi Chettu

Kannada: Arali Mara

Marathi: Pimpal

Gujarati: Piplo

Uses:

1. Religious Significance:

Considered sacred in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism.

Associated with various deities and is often found near temples.

2. Medicinal Uses:

The bark, leaves, and roots are used in traditional medicine.

Known for treating asthma, diabetes, diarrhea, epilepsy, gastric problems, inflammatory disorders, and sexual disorders.

3. Environmental Uses:

Acts as a natural air purifier.

Provides shade and helps in soil conservation.

Supports a variety of wildlife, including birds and insects.

4. Other Uses:

Leaves are used in ceremonial decorations.

Wood is sometimes used for making small utensils and crafts.

General Features:

Leaves: Heart shaped with an elongated tip, 10-17 cm long, 8-12 cm wide. The leaves have a smooth texture and are green, turning yellow before shedding.

Bark: Greyish and smooth in young trees, becomes rough and fissured with age.

Fruits: Small figs that turn purple when ripe. They are edible but not commonly consumed.

Roots: Extensive root system with numerous aerial roots in older trees, often seen growing over structures.

Height: Can grow up to 30 meters (about 98 feet) tall.

Trunk Diameter: Can reach up to 3 meters (about 10 feet) in diameter in mature trees.

Ficus religiosa a prominent tree in the Indian subcontinent, revered for its religious significance and practical uses. Its ability to thrive in various environments and its role in traditional medicine highlight its importance in Indian culture and ecology.