

Millingtonia hortensis



Millingtonia hortensis, commonly known as Indian cork tree or tree jasmine, is a species of tree native to South and Southeast Asia.

Name of *Millingtonia hortensis* in Indian languages:

1. Hindi: Akash Neem
2. Tamil: Kavukkai, Mara Malli
3. Telugu: Akasha Malli
4. Malayalam: Kavuku
5. Kannada: Kavuki
6. Marathi: Buch
7. Bengali: Neem Chameli

TAXONOMY:

Kingdom: Plantae
Clade: Tracheophytes
Order: Lamiales
Family: Bignoniaceae
Genus: *Millingtonia*
Species: *M. hortensis*



USES

1. Ornamental Purposes:

Millingtonia hortensis is widely cultivated as an ornamental tree in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and attractive foliage. It is often planted along avenues, in parks, and gardens.

2. Timber:

The wood of *Millingtonia hortensis* is lightweight, soft, and easy to work with. It is used locally for making furniture, boxes, and other small items.

3. Traditional Uses:

Various parts of the tree, including the bark and leaves, have been used in traditional medicine for their potential medicinal properties. Extracts from *Millingtonia hortensis* are believed to have antibacterial and anti-inflammatory effects.

Cultivation:

- *Millingtonia hortensis* prefers full sun to partial shade and well drained, fertile soil. It is tolerant of a range of soil types but does best in loamy soil with good drainage.
- The tree is propagated from seeds, which germinate easily and grow rapidly under favourable conditions.
- *Millingtonia hortensis* is valued not only for its aesthetic appeal and fragrant flowers but also for its potential uses in traditional medicine and local craftsmanship. It remains a popular choice in landscaping and urban forestry due to its graceful appearance and ability to attract pollinators.

Characteristics Feature

- **Size:** *Millingtonia hortensis* is a medium to large sized deciduous tree that can reach heights of 2030 meters (6598 feet).
 - **Leaves:** The leaves are compound, pinnate (featherlike), and arranged alternately along the branches. Each leaf has 59 leaflets that are ovate to lanceolate in shape and dark green in colour.
 - **Flowers:** The flowers are small, fragrant, and white, borne in large, pyramidal panicles (clusters) that can be up to 1 meter (3 feet) long. The flowers have long tubes and are pollinated by bees and butterflies.
 - **Fruits:** The fruit is a woody capsule that is cylindrical or slightly curved, containing winged seeds.
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