

Phyllanthus acidus



Phyllanthus acidus, commonly known as the Otaheite gooseberry, Malay gooseberry, or simply gooseberry tree, is a small tropical tree that produces tart, yellow berries.

Name of *Phyllanthus acidus* in Indian languages:

1. Hindi: Aamla
2. Tamil: Aranelli
3. Telugu: Usirikaya
4. Malayalam: Ari Nelli
5. Kannada: Harinelli
6. Marathi: Karvanda
7. Bengali: Amlaki

TAXONOMY:

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Angiosperms

Order: Malpighiales

Family: Phyllanthaceae

Genus: *Phyllanthus*

Species: *Phyllanthus acidus*



USES:

1. Culinary Uses:

- **Fresh Fruit:** The tart berries can be eaten fresh, though they are very sour and often preferred by those who enjoy tart flavours.
- **Preserves and Pickles:** The fruit is commonly used to make preserves, jams, and pickles due to its high acidity.
- **Juice:** The berries can be juiced and sweetened to make a refreshing beverage.
- **Culinary Ingredients:** Used in various culinary applications, including chutneys and sauces.

2. Traditional Medicine:

- **Digestive Aid:** The fruit is used in traditional medicine to aid digestion and alleviate digestive issues.
- **Liver Health:** Believed to have properties that support liver health and detoxification.
- **General Health:** Used as a general health tonic in some traditional medicinal practices.

3. Cultural Uses:

- **Ornamental:** The tree is often grown for ornamental purposes due to its attractive foliage and fruit.
- **Shade Tree:** Used in home gardens and public spaces for shade.

Characteristics Feature

- **Size:** *Phyllanthus acidus*, is a small to medium sized tree, typically reaching heights of 1530 feet.
 - **Leaves:** The tree has compound leaves with numerous small leaflets arranged alternately. The leaves are light green and can turn yellow before falling.
 - **Flowers:** The tree produces small, inconspicuous flowers that are greenish to yellow in color. These flowers are borne in clusters.
 - **Fruits:** The fruits are small, ribbed, and pale yellow to yellow green when ripe. They are about 12 cm in diameter and have a very tart flavour.
 - **Growth:** The tree prefers warm, tropical climates and can tolerate a range of soil types. It requires regular watering but can withstand short periods of drought.
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