

# Swietenia macrophylla: The Mahogany Tree



Kingdom: Plantae  
Clade: Angiosperms  
Order: Sapindales  
Family: Meliaceae  
Genus: Swietenia  
Species: *S. macrophylla*

*Swietenia macrophylla*, commonly known as mahogany, Honduran mahogany, or bigleaf mahogany, is a majestic tropical tree renowned for its exquisite timber. Native to the rainforests of Central and South America, it has been widely cultivated in tropical regions for its economic value.

## Characteristic Features

**Size:** A large, evergreen tree, often reaching heights of 30-40 meters.

**Leaves:** Large, compound leaves with several leaflets.

**Flowers:** Small, fragrant, yellowish-green flowers.

**Fruit:** Large, woody capsules containing numerous winged seeds.

## Uses

**Timber:** The primary use of mahogany is for its highquality timber. It's prized for its rich color, durability, and workability. Mahogany is used in furniture, cabinetry, musical instruments, and boatbuilding.

**Reforestation:** Mahogany is often planted in reforestation projects due to its economic value and ecological importance.

**Note:** Due to overexploitation, many mahogany species, including *Swietenia macrophylla*, are threatened or endangered. Sustainable harvesting and reforestation efforts are crucial for the preservation of this valuable tree.

