

Tamarindus indica: The Tamarind Tree



Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Angiosperms

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae

Subfamily: Caesalpinioideae

Genus: Tamarindus

Species: T. indica

Tamarindus indica is a tropical tree renowned for its edible fruit, the tamarind. Native to tropical Africa, it has been cultivated and naturalized in many parts of the world, particularly in India and Southeast Asia.

Common Names

Imli (Hindi)

Puli (Tamil)

Chintapandu (Telugu)

Chinta (Kannada)

Vetrilai (Malayalam)



Characteristic Features

Size: A medium to large tree, typically reaching heights of 2030 meters.

Leaves: Pinnate leaves with numerous small leaflets.

Flowers: Yellowish red flowers in racemes.

Fruit: A legume like pod containing a sweet, tangy pulp and hard seeds.

Uses

Culinary: The tamarind pulp is widely used in various cuisines as a souring agent. It's a key ingredient in many Indian dishes, sauces, chutneys, and drinks.

Medicinal: Tamarind has been used in traditional medicine for centuries to treat digestive issues, fever, and inflammation.

Timber: The wood is hard and durable, used for furniture, construction, and agricultural implements.

