

# Terminalia catappa

## The Tropical Almond Tree



Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Angiosperms

Order: Myrtales

Family: Combretaceae

Genus: Terminalia

Species: *T. catappa*

*Terminalia catappa*, commonly known as the Tropical Almond Tree, is a large, evergreen tree native to the coastal regions of India, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Islands. It is prized for its edible nuts, shade, and medicinal properties.

*Terminalia catappa* is widely known in India as "Indian Almond" or simply "Almond Tree".

## Characteristic Features

**Size:** A large tree, typically reaching heights of 35-40 meters.

**Leaves:** Broad, obovate leaves with a distinctive reddish brown color when young, turning to a glossy green as they mature.

**Flowers:** Small, greenish white flowers arranged in spikes.

**Fruit:** Large, drupelike fruits containing a single, almond flavored seed.

## Uses

**Edible Nuts:** The seeds are edible and have a sweet, almond like flavor. They are consumed raw or roasted.

**Shade:** The tree provides ample shade and is often planted along beaches and water bodies.

**Medicinal:** Various parts of the tree, including the leaves, bark, and fruit, have been used in traditional medicine for treating various ailments.

**Timber:** The wood is strong and durable, used for construction, furniture, and boatbuilding.

**Ornamental:** The tree's attractive foliage and shape make it a popular ornamental plant.