

Ziziphus mauritiana

Ziziphus mauritiana, commonly known as Indian jujube, ber, or bor, is a small to medium-sized deciduous tree native to South Asia.

Kingdom: Plantae
Clade: Tracheophytes
Order: Rosales
Family: Rhamnaceae
Genus: *Ziziphus*
Species: *Z. mauritiana*

Common Names

Hindi: Ber
Tamil: Elanthai
Telugu: Regi Pandu
Malayalam: Ilanthappazham
Kannada: Yelchi Hannu
Marathi: Bor
Bengali: Bor



Characteristics of Ziziphus mauritiana

Size: *Ziziphus mauritiana* typically grows up to 512 meters (1639 feet) tall, with a spreading canopy.

Leaves: The leaves are glossy green, ovate to elliptic in shape, and arranged alternately along the branches.

Flowers: The flowers are small, yellow to greenish yellow, and fragrant. They are borne in clusters in leaf axils.

Fruits: The fruit of *Ziziphus mauritiana* is a small, round berrylike drupe, 23 cm in diameter, with a smooth skin that turns from green to yellow, and finally reddish brown or brownish black when ripe. The pulp is sweet and aromatic, containing a single seed.

Bark: The bark is greyish brown and rough textured.

Uses of Ziziphus mauritiana

1. Culinary Uses:

The ripe fruits of *Ziziphus mauritiana* are eaten fresh, dried, or preserved. They are used to make jams, jellies, and beverages.

2. Medicinal Uses:

In traditional medicine, various parts of the *Ziziphus mauritiana* tree, including the leaves, bark, and fruits, are used for their supposed medicinal properties.

The fruits are believed to aid digestion, treat respiratory ailments, and act as a general tonic.

3. Other Uses:

Livestock Feed: Leaves and fruits are sometimes used as fodder for livestock.

Timber: The wood of *Ziziphus mauritiana* is used for small scale purposes such as tool handles and fuelwood.

Ornamental: The tree is also planted for its ornamental value, with attractive foliage and fragrant flowers.

Cultivation

Ziziphus mauritiana thrives in dry, arid regions but can tolerate a range of soil types as long as they are well drained.

It is propagated from seeds or cuttings and is relatively low maintenance once established.

The tree is drought tolerant once mature but benefits from regular watering during its early years of growth.

Ziziphus mauritiana is valued for its nutritious fruits, medicinal properties, and adaptability to dry climates, making it an important tree in agroforestry and horticulture across its native range.