

***St. Joseph's College  
of Arts and Science for Women,  
Hosur***



***Handbook On Flora Of  
St. Joseph's College***



**Dr. Dhina Suresh Mrs. S. Bobby Mrs. I. Anusha Prem**

# 1

## TREES



Botanical Name : *Carica papaya* L.  
Family : CARICACEAE  
Common name : PAPAYA

01

### INTERESTING FACTS :

This species' natural home is tropical America. Papaya was introduced to India in the 16th century. The fruit is a huge berry with a diameter of 10–30 cm (3.9–11.8 in) and a length of 15–45 cm (5.9–17.7 in). They're abundant in antioxidants and fiber as well. Papaya leaves are used in traditional medicine to cure malaria and dengue fever.

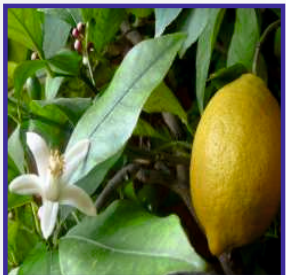


Botanical Name : *Musa paradisiaca* L.  
Family : MUSACEAE  
Common name : BANANA / FRENCH PLANTAIN

02

### INTERESTING FACTS :

Tropical Indo-Malaya and Australia are home to this species. They're used all throughout the world because of their nutritional benefits. Traditional medicine uses the fruits, as well as other components of the plant, to cure various ailments in humans. When fully grown, they stand 2–9 meters (7–30 feet) tall. Although they are usually referred to be trees, they are actually large herbaceous plants. They are rich in starch.



Botanical Name : *Citrus ×limon* (L.) Osbeck  
Family : RUTACEAE  
Common name : LEMON

03

### INTERESTING FACTS :

This plant is native to Southeast Asia and is grown in tropical and subtropical climates. Vitamin C is abundant in them. Citrus Limon is a medium-sized evergreen shrub that grows to 3 m (9ft) by 1 m (3ft 3in). Insect repellent is present in all of the components. Medicine is made from the fruit, juice, and peel. Scurvy is a disorder caused by a lack of vitamin C. Lemon is used to treat it.



Botanical Name : *Phyllanthus acidus* L.  
Family : PHYLLANTHACEAE  
Common name : STAR GOOSEBERRY

04

### INTERESTING FACTS :

This species can be found throughout the Caribbean and South America. It's a cross between a shrub and a tree, growing to a height of 2 to 9 meters (612 to 30 feet). The edible star gooseberry is a crisp, tart, and juicy fruit. It has a sour and acidic flavor. Psoriasis, sciatica, rheumatism, constipation, and asthma are all treated with it as a traditional medication. Fruits can be consumed fresh, pickled, or candied. Snake bites are treated with the leaves and root.



Botanical Name : *Phyllanthus emblica* L.  
Family : PHYLLANTHACEAE  
Common name : INDIAN GOOSEBERRY

05

### INTERESTING FACTS :

Native to India's northwestern and southwestern regions. A type of Indian traditional medicine. The tree is modest to medium in size, growing to a height of 1–8 m (3 ft 3 in – 26 ft 3 in). The leaves are simple, light green, and pinnate. It is used to cure a variety of ailments in traditional medicine, including fever, constipation, cough, and asthma.



Botanical Name : *Annona squamosa* L.  
Family : ANNONACEAE  
Common name : CUSTARD APPLE

06

### INTERESTING FACTS :

Tropical America is home to this species. Many species are prized for their enormous pulpy fruits, while others are valued for their wood. It's also used to cure things like diarrhea, dysentery, colds, chills, rheumatism, and insomnia. It also has anticancer properties and decreases blood uric acid levels. It is a deciduous tree that grows to 6 m (19ft) in height and 6 m (19ft) in width.



Botanical Name : *Mangifera indica* L.  
Family : ANACARDIACEAE  
Common name : INDIAN MANGO

07

### INTERESTING FACTS :

This plant is found across the tropics and is grown for its tasty fruits. India, Pakistan, and the Philippines all have national fruits, and Bangladesh has a national tree. Mango is also used for therapeutic purposes. It is anti-diuretic, anti-diarrheal, and antiemetic in general. Plant parts are used in the treatment of various conditions such as high blood pressure, angina, asthma, coughs, diabetes, dental problems, skin problems, colds, diarrhea, bleeding piles, dysentery, scorpion stings, hemorrhage, stomach pain, etc. It is an evergreen Tree growing to 25 m (82ft) by 25 m (82ft) at a medium rate.





Botanical Name : *Punica granatum* L.  
Family : LYTHRACEAE  
Common name : POMEGRANATE

08

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

South Europe, Pakistan, India, and West Asia are all home to this species. Fruit is consumed as food, and its juice is widely consumed for its nutritional value. The plant also contains a lot of tannin, which makes it a good astringent. Dysentery, stomach discomfort, and cough are all treated with the flowers. *Punica granatum* is a deciduous tree that grows to a medium height of 5 m (16 ft) by 8 m (26 ft).



Botanical Name : *Cocos nucifera* L.  
Family : ARECACEAE  
Common name : COCONUT PALM/ COCONUT

09

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

This species is found throughout the tropics and is widely farmed. It's grown as a plantation crop and in backyard gardens all along the coast. Traditional medicine makes extensive use of the coconut. The seed is edible and can be eaten raw, cooked with, or dried and shredded for flavoring. Coconut milk is diuretic. It is an evergreen Tree growing to 25 m (82ft) by 7 m (23ft) at a medium rate.



Botanical Name : *Manilkara zapota* (L.)  
Family : SAPOTACEAE  
Common name : SAPODILLA/ SAPOTA/ CHIKOO

10

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

Southern Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean are home to this evergreen tree. The edible fruit, which is a berry, is used to cure fever, hemorrhage, wounds, ulcers, neuralgia, diarrhea, indigestion, gallstones, and thrush in infants. Sapodilla can reach a height of more than 30 meters (98 feet) and a trunk diameter of 1.5 meters (5 ft).

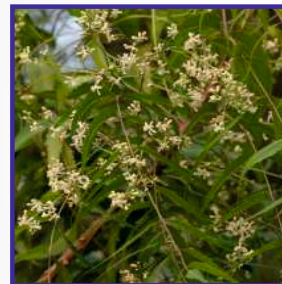


Botanical Name : *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.  
Family : MORACEAE  
Common name : JACKFRUIT

11

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

Bangladesh's national fruit is a Southeast Asian native. This species is believed to be native to South West India and is found across the Pan tropics. The fruit is wonderful and sweet. Ulcers, diarrhea, boils, stomachaches, and boils are treated using the ashes of the leaves. Furniture, construction, turnery and inlay work, masts, oars, utensils, and musical instruments are all made of wood. It is a fast-growing evergreen tree that reaches a height of 15 m (49 ft) by 15 m (49 ft). at a fast rate.



Botanical Name : *Azadirachta indica* A.Juss.  
Family : MELIACEAE  
Common name : NEEM / NIMTREE / INDIAN LILAC

12

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

It is native to the Indian subcontinent and the majority of African countries. It grows best in tropical and semi-tropical climates. Neem trees can also be found on the islands off the coast of Iran. Neem oil is extracted from the plant's fruits and seeds. Neem is a fast-growing tree that can reach heights of 15–20 meters (49–66 feet) and even 35–40 meters (115–131 feet) on rare occasions. It's a deciduous tree with large, spreading branches.

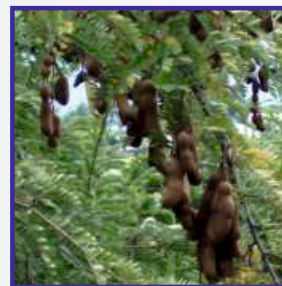


Botanical Name : *Tabebuia rosea* (Bertol.) DC.  
Family : BIGNONIACEAE  
Common name : PINK POUI / ROSY TRUMPET TREE

13

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

It is a neotropical tree that can reach a height of 30 meters (98 ft). It's commonly found in parks and gardens. It provides shade during the rainy season. During the dry season, the defoliated trees produce an abundance of flowers. Intestinal parasites, malaria, and uterine cancer are all treated with preparations made from the tree's bark. Anemia and constipation can be treated with a bark decoction.



Botanical Name : *Tamarindus indica* L.  
Family : FABACEAE  
Common name : TAMARIND / INDIAN DATE

14

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

The tamarind tree is a medium-sized, long-lived tree with a crown height of 12 to 18 meters (40 to 60 feet). The tamarind tree produces brown, pod-like fruits with a sweet, acidic pulp that is utilized in a variety of cuisines. The pulp is also used as a metal polish and in traditional medicine. The wood of the tree can be used for woodworking, and the seeds can be used to extract tamarind seed oil. Heat rashes can be treated with the juice extracted from crushed leaves.



Botanical Name : *Moringa oleifera* Lam.  
Family : MORINGACEAE  
Common name : MORINGA / DRUMSTICK TREE / HORSERADISH TREE

15

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

It's grown for its immature seed pods and leaves, which are eaten as a vegetable and used in traditional herbal medicine. It can also be used to purify water. It is a fast-growing deciduous tree with a trunk diameter of 45 cm and a height of 10–12 m (32–40 ft) (1.5 ft). Its sap is used to cure tooth decay by being kept in the mouth. It's also an astringent.



Botanical Name : *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L.) Pers. **16**  
 Family : LYTHRACEAE  
 Common name : PRIDE OF INDIA  
 INTERESTING FACTS :

Its natural habitat is tropical southern Asia. It's a small to medium-sized tree with smooth, flaking bark that grows up to 20 meters (66 feet) tall. The leaves fall off in the fall. It is also commonly used as a decorative plant. The seeds are narcotic in nature. The Philippine Department of Health has highlighted it as one of the 69 herbal plants. The leaves used to cure diabetes, kidney problems and also used for weight loss.



Botanical Name : *Millingtonia hortensis* L.fil. **17**  
 Family : BIGNONIACEAE  
 Common name : TREE JASMINE / INDIAN CORK TREE  
 INTERESTING FACTS :

The tree reaches a height of 18 to 25 meters and a width of 7 to 11 meters. It matures between the ages of 6 and 8, and can live for up to 40 years. The tree is regarded attractive, and the blossoms' pleasant aroma makes it an excellent garden tree. Food poisoning, fever, lung tonic, and hypertension are all treated using leaves, roots, and flowers.



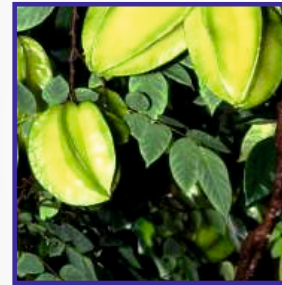
Botanical Name : *Psidium guajava* L. **18**  
 Family : MYRTACEAE  
 Common name : GUAVA  
 INTERESTING FACTS :

Guavas are berries in the botanical sense. Guavas are high in dietary fiber and vitamin C, and have a moderate folic acid content. Guava fruits range in size from 4 to 12 cm in length, depending on the species. The edible fruits of this plant are widely dispersed and cultivated.



Botanical Name : *Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels **19**  
 Family : MYRTACEAE  
 Common name : JAVA PLUM / JAMUN  
 INTERESTING FACTS :

It can grow to a height of 30 meters (98 feet) and live for more than 100 years. The fruit has a sweet, moderately acidic, and astringent flavor that causes the tongue to turn purple. Fruits have a sweet or slightly acidic taste and can be eaten raw or cooked into sauces or jam.



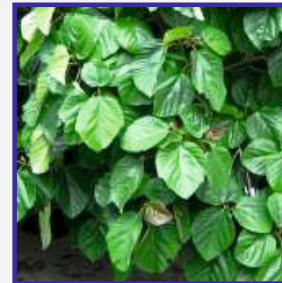
Botanical Name : *Averrhoa carambola* L. **20**  
 Family : OXALIDACEAE  
 Common name : CARAMBOLA / STAR FRUIT  
 INTERESTING FACTS :

It's a tiny tree or shrub with rose to red-purple flowers that grows 5 to 12 m (16 to 39 ft) tall. The flowers are tiny and bell-shaped, with five whitish-edged petals. The sour versions of the fruits, which contain a significant amount of oxalic acid, are pickled and turned into jelly, jam, and juice. The fruit is utilized as an anti-scorbutic in India.



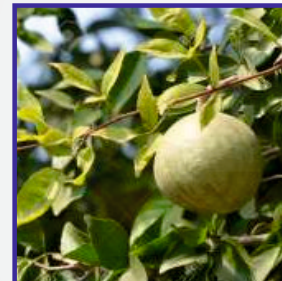
Botanical Name : *Muntingia calabura* L. **21**  
 Family : MUNTINGIACEAE  
 Common name : SINGAPORE CHERRY / JAMAICA CHERRY  
 INTERESTING FACTS :

It is a shrub or tree with spreading branches that grows up to 12 meters tall. It has edible fruit and is native to the neotropics, from Mexico to Bolivia. It has been widely imported in other tropical countries. At maturity, the fruit, which is an edible berry, is crimson and about 1.5 cm broad.



Botanical Name : *Ficus auriculata* Lour. **22**  
 Family : MORACEAE  
 Common name : ROXBURGH FIG  
 INTERESTING FACTS :

Ficus is a very old genus, dating back at least 60 million years. The fruits of many fig species are grown. This plant's fresh fruit is eaten as food, and it has diuretic, laxative, and digestive-regulating qualities.



Botanical Name : *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corrêa **23**  
 Family : RUTACEAE  
 Common name : BAEI / STONE APPLE / BENGAL-QUINCE  
 INTERESTING FACTS :

It's a rare tree that can only be found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. It grows up to 13 meters tall as a deciduous shrub or small to medium-sized tree. The tree is revered as a sacred site. Its fruits have been utilized in traditional medicine for centuries. The bael fruit is usually between 5 and 12 centimeters in diameter.





Botanical Name : *Santalum album* L.  
Family : SANTALACEAE  
Common name : SANDAL WOOD / EAST INDIAN SANDALWOOD

24

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

They could live to be a hundred years old. A native of India, this tree is evergreen and has a long history. For its widespread cultivation, it is known as Karnataka's heritage. It has been processed and traded since ancient times for the production of perfumes and high-value carvings. The tree can reach a height of 9 meters. To combat the problem posed by over-harvesting, the Indian government has restricted the species' export.



Botanical Name : *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam.  
Family : RHAMNACEAE  
Common name : INDIAN JUJUBE

25

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

It is a spiny evergreen shrub with a thorny appearance. It can develop to be a bushy shrub 1.5 to 2 meters tall, or a tree 10 to 12 meters tall with a trunk diameter of 30 centimeters. The Indo-Malaysian region of South-East Asia is where the species is thought to have originated. It's nutrient-dense and high in vitamin C. Fruits that are fully ripe are less crisp. The flesh of overripe apples is buff-colored, mushy, spongy, and musky, with wrinkles.



Botanical Name : *Plumeria* L.  
Family : APOCYNACEAE  
Common name : PLUMERIA / FRANGIPANI

26

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

The majority of the species are tiny trees or shrubs with deciduous leaves. The scent of plumeria blooms is strongest at night. Cutting stem tips in the spring is an easy way to propagate plumeria species.



Botanical Name : *Magnolia champaca* (L.) Baill. ex Pierre  
Family : MAGNOLIACEAE  
Common name : CHAMPAK

27

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

It is well-known for its fragrant blooms and wood for woodworking. The tree can reach a height of 50 meters (160 feet) or more in its natural habitat. The diameter of its trunk can reach 1.9 meters (6.2 feet).



Botanical Name : *Grevillea robusta* A.Cunn. ex R.Br.  
Family : PROTEACEAE  
Common name : SILKY OAK / SILVER OAK

28

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

It's a fast-growing evergreen tree with a single main stem that can reach a height of 5–40 meters (20–100 feet). It's been used to make furniture and cabinetry, and it's also been utilized to make fences.



Botanical Name : *Vitex negundo* L.  
Family : LAMIACEAE  
Common name : CHINESE CHASTETREE

29

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

It is a tiny tree or shrub that grows to a height of 2 to 8 meters (6.6 to 26.2 feet). The bark has a dark reddish brown color. Purified extracts are thought to have therapeutic characteristics, such as the ability to treat coughs.

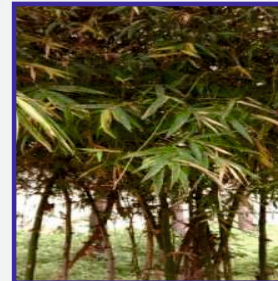


Botanical Name : *Eucalyptus obliqua* L'Hér.  
Family : MYRTACEAE  
Common name : EUCALYPTS

30

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

Eucalyptus plants have smooth, fibrous, rough, or stringy bark, as well as leaves with oil glands. Eucalyptus trees are almost all evergreen. The charcoal and pulp and paper industries place a high value on the wood.



Botanical Name : *Bambusa vulgaris* Schrad. ex J.C.Wendl  
Family : POACEAE  
Common name : COMMON BAMBOO

31

#### INTERESTING FACTS :

Is a bamboo species that grows in open clumps. Indo-China native. Due of its golden color, it is also known as golden bamboo. Is often utilized as a decorative item. The stems and leaves of common bamboo are utilized for a variety of purposes, including fire and feed. The plant's young shoots can be cooked. The densely tufted culms reach a height of 10–20 m (30–70 ft) and a thickness of 4–10 cm (2–4 in).



Botanical Name : *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) Thwaites **32**  
 Family : ANNONACEAE  
 Common name : FALSE ASHOKA TREE / CEMETERY-TREE

**INTERESTING FACTS :**

It is endemic to southern India and Sri Lanka, although it has since spread throughout tropical Asia. This evergreen tree may reach a height of over 10 meters and is widely planted due to its ability to reduce noise pollution. With willowy weeping pendulous branches, it grows in a symmetrical pyramidal pattern.



Botanical Name : *Senegalia ferruginea* (DC.) Pedley **33**  
 Family : FABACEAE  
 Common name : RUSTY ACACIA

**INTERESTING FACTS :**

Rusty Acacia is a tiny, drought-resistant deciduous tree that grows to be no more than 12 meters tall. It has a bole that is rarely straight for more than 2-3 meters. The slender branches are armed with conical prickles, and the spine remains on the trunk until it reaches around 15 cm.



Botanical Name : *Ficus religiosa* L. **34**  
 Family : MORACEAE  
 Common name : SACRED FIG / PEEPUL TREE / BODHI TREE

**INTERESTING FACTS :**

It is a huge deciduous or semi-evergreen tree that grows up to 30 meters tall in the dry season. It has an extremely long lifespan, ranging from 900 to 1,500 years on average. It's used in traditional medicine to treat a variety of ailments, including asthma, diabetes, diarrhea, and epilepsy, to name a few.



Botanical Name : *Drypetes sepiaria* (Wight & Arn.) Pax & K.Hoffm. **35**  
 Family : PUTRANJIVACEAE  
 Common name : VELLILAMBU /VEERAI

**INTERESTING FACTS :**

In Malayalam, it is known as vellakasavu, veeramaram, and in Tamil, it is known as vellilambu, veerai, aadumilukkan, and kaayalakkamaram. It contains a wide range of therapeutic properties that can be used to treat a variety of human ailments.



Botanical Name : *Persea americana* Miller **36**  
 Family : LAURACEAE  
 Common name : AVOCADO PEAR / BUTTER FRUIT

**INTERESTING FACTS :**

It's a 20 m (66 ft) tall tree with 12–25 cm (5–10 in) long alternately oriented leaves. When mature, the fruit of domestic types has a buttery flesh. Avocados have green, brown, purplish, or black skin when ripe, and can be pear-shaped, egg-shaped, or spherical, depending on the variety. Avocados are widely grown in Mexico, which is the world's biggest producer.



Botanical Name : *Thespesia populnea* (L.) Sol. ex Corrêa **37**  
 Family : MALVACEAE  
 Common name : PORTIA TREE / INDIAN TULIP TREE

**INTERESTING FACTS :**

The Portia tree can grow to a height of 6–10 m (20–33 ft) and has a trunk diameter of 20–30 cm (7.9–11.8 in). It is widely used in woodworking. It was traditionally utilized for religious sculpture and was cultivated in sacred groves. Its wood is used to construct canoes, house parts, and artwork, and its bark is used to heal oral infections in infants.



Botanical Name : *Millettia pinnata* (L.) Panigrahi **38**  
 Family : FABACEAE  
 Common name : MILLETTIA PINNATA

**INTERESTING FACTS :**

This legume tree reaches a height of 15–25 metres (50–80 feet). High temperatures and direct sunlight are beneficial to the tree's growth. It can be used for a variety of traditional purposes. The blossoms are used as compost by gardeners for plants that require a lot of nutrients. The bark can be used to make twine or rope. Fruit, bark, and root are used in medicinal cures for young infants to treat scabies.



Botanical Name : *Ficus elastica* Roxb. ex Hornem **39**  
 Family : MORACEAE  
 Common name : RUBBER FIG

**INTERESTING FACTS :**

It is a huge tree in the banyan family of figs, reaching a height of 30–40 m (100–130 ft) – rarely 60 m or 195 ft – and a trunk diameter of 2 m (6 ft 7 in). It is planted as an ornamental plant all over the world. It produces a latex that is milky white which was used to make rubber.





Botanical Name : *Jacaranda mimosifolia* D.Don  
 Family : BIGNONIACEAE  
 Common name : BLUE JACARANDA

40

**INTERESTING FACTS :**

It's a sub-tropical tree native to south-central South America that's become popular due to its lovely violet-colored blossoms that endure for a long time. The tree can reach a height of up to 20 meters (66 ft).



Botanical Name : *Peltophorum vogelianum* Benth.  
 Family : FABACEAE  
 Common name : PELTOPHORUM / PEELA GULMOHAR

41

**INTERESTING FACTS :**

It is a flowering plant genus with 5–15 species. The genus is found in tropical climates all over the world. The trees range in size from medium to enormous, reaching up to 15–25 m in height, and occasionally 50 m.



Botanical Name : *Tectona grandis* L.f.  
 Family : LAMIACEAE  
 Common name : TEAK

42

**INTERESTING FACTS :**

It's a big deciduous tree with a lot of leaves. It can reach a height of 40 meters (131 feet) and has grey to brown branches. It is well-known for its superior timber. It has ovate-elliptic leaves.



Botanical Name : *Mimusops elengi* L.  
 Family : SAPOTACEAE  
 Common name : SPANISH CHERRY / BULLET WOOD

43

**INTERESTING FACTS :**

Bullet wood is an evergreen tree that grows to around 16 meters in height (52 ft). It has a valuable timber, edible fruit, and is utilized in traditional medicine. Because of the dense shade provided by the trees and the scent released by the blooms.