



Regional Plant Resource Centre  
An autonomous organization under the Department of Forest and Environment, Govt. of Odisha, India

# PLANT OF THE WEEK

3RD WEEK  
1-12-2014

## The Neem Tree (*Azadirachta indica*) - An incredible medicinal plant

**Botanical Name :** *Azadirachta indica* A Juss.

**Synonyms :** *Melia azadirachta* L.

**Family :** Meliaceae

### Local Name

Odia : Limba, Neem

Hindi : Neem

English: The Neem Tree

Telugu : Yapa, Vepa

Bengali : Neem



The Neem Tree  
(*Azadirachta indica*)

### Description

**Habit :** Tree

**Leaf :** Leaves 20-38 cm; leaflets 5-9 pairs, obliquely lanceolate, 2.5-7.5×1.2-3.7 cm, inequilaterally, sometimes falcate, serrate, acuminate, glabrous, base cuneate, oblique; petiolules 2 mm

**Flower:** - Flowers white, fragrant, 7.5 mm across. Staminal tube 5 mm long.



**Fruit:** - Drupe ellipsoid, 1.2-1.8 cm long, yellow, glabrous.

### Uses

The whole plant part viz. bark, root, fruits, seed, flowers, leaves etc is medicinally important and used in various other proposes.



**Twig :** Rural people in India use the twigs as toothbrush. It is quite effective in reducing plaque and gingival inflammation.

**Bark :** The bark is widely used as an antiperiodic, vulnerary, lever tonic, expectorant, urinary astringent, anthelmintic, pectoral and also very useful in hyperdispia, eczema, pruritus, malarial fevers, wounds, ulcers, burning sensation, tumor, vomiting, intestinal worms, cough, bronchitis, diabetes, inflammation, haemorrhoids, Syphilis and fatigue.

**Leaves:** The leaves are bitter, astringent, acrid, depurative, antiseptic, ophthalmic, appetizer, insecticidal, demulcent & refrigerant. They are useful in burning sensation, leprosy, skin diseases, leucoderma, intestinal worms, dyspepsia & general debility. The leaves are burnt to keep away mosquitoes and also leaf powder are used as a facial cream.

**Flower:** The flowers are eaten as a vegetable in India. It is believed to be good for one's health.

**Seed:** The seeds are uterine stimulant & urinary astringent. They are useful in tumors, leprosy, skin diseases, intestinal worms, wounds, ulcers and diabetes. The Neem oil is bitter, anthelmintic and depurative. It is also used for preparing cosmetics such as soap, shampoo, facial creams etc.



*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss.



### Mythological importance

In our state Odisha the oldest and world famous Jagannath temple deity Daru Brahma, the mystic expression of Lord in wood (Lord Jagannath, Sri Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra ) are made up of Neem heart wood.



### Source

- Saxsena, H.O. & Brahmam, M. (1994). The Flora of Orissa, Vol. I, pp: 273– 274.
- Sharma P.C.; Yelne M.B.; Dennis T.J. (2005 ). Database on Medicinal Plants Used in Ayurveda, Vol.1, pp: 47-50.
- [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azadirachta indica](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azadirachta_indica)

### Conservation Status

Not yet evaluated