

Azadiracta indica Linn.



Common Name: Neem

Scientific Name: *Azadiracta indica* Linn.

Family: Meliaceae

It is a cosmopolitan deciduous tree native to the Indian subcontinent and many countries of Africa. It is a fast-growing tree that can reach a height of 15-20 meters and sometimes up to 40 meters. The neem tree is noted for its drought resistance. Normally it thrives in areas with sub-arid to sub-humid conditions. It can also grow in many types of soil and generally dependant on ground water levels. It is a very hardy plant and can withstand many types of stresses.

Medicinal Uses: Neem has traditionally been used as a type of teeth-cleaning twig. It is also known to aid in gum improvement.

Economically Important Part: Leaves, Fruits and Twigs

Economic Uses: Neem tree yields many important phytochemicals which are of high importance and are frequently used for insect anti-feed, growth disrupter and insecticide. The Neem tree is of great importance for its anti-desertification properties and possibly as a good carbon dioxide sink. It is also used for maintaining soil fertility. Neem extract is added to fertilizers (urea) as a nitrification inhibitor.