Native? Indigenous? Local?
All those terms indicate something very specific and scientifically true, but on that book, we have tried to put together 160 species that you can come across in Auroville’s bioregion, even if they are not strictly part of the TDEF.

The Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest, which forms the original habitat of the region along the coast of Coromandel from north of Chennai to Point Kalimere, is under severe threat, but an important work of afforestation has started and continues to happen since the eighties in Auroville’s bioregion.

The pictures found in this book are mostly taken in Auroville Botanical Gardens, but some were found elsewhere, when important features were missing on our young trees.

The indications provided in the paragraph “Uses”, especially the medicinal properties were partially experimented by our team, the rest was also found in public literature. Please take the basic care of yourself before any experiment with those plants.

Because we believe in that maxim: what is named is saved, we hope that encountering this book will help you to conserve, protect and actually restore the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest.

Special thanks to Paul Blanchflower and Neil Meikleham.

**SAIER**
Auroville - March 2020
**Calophyllum inophyllum**

**CALOPHYLLACEAE**

**Names:** Indian laurel (C)/ Pinnai maram (T)/ Sultan champa (H)/ Peace in the physical (M)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant is found mainly near water bodies, close to the coast, or planted as a sacred tree.

**Landscape information:** It is a coastal species, is relatively fast growing, and is drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Crack and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags. Likes sun after transplanting. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The seed oil has been used as a remedy for wounds. The wood is used for agricultural implements.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Green  
**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Psydrax dicoccus**

**RUBIACEAE**

**Names:** Ceylon boxwood (C)/ Nanjaruppan (T)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** Mature trees are often found in remnants that are less disturbed, however it is also found in degraded areas as a shrub.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant and attracts butterflies.

**Propagation:** Soak ripe fruits for 12 hours, then clean and sow directly in beds. GT: 30-60 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** A paste made out of the leaf has been used in the treatment of muscles in spasm.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Black  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Drupe
Ixora pavetta
RUBIACEAE

Names: Torch wood tree (C)/ Koran (T)/ Jilpai (H)/ Straightforwardness (M)

Description: A shrub, evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: Mature trees are often found in undisturbed remnant forests, however also found in degraded areas as a shrub.

Landscape information: It has fragrant flowers, attracts birds, and is drought tolerant.

Propagation: Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Seedlings require aftercare, and not all develop.

Pavetta indica
RUBIACEAE

Names: Paavattai (T)/ Papat (H)/ Radiating peace in the cells (M)

Description: A shrub, it is brevideciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: This shrub can be found in the open, or as a component of the understory in a mature forest.

Landscape information: It is drought tolerant and attracts butterflies.

Propagation: Clean and soak seeds for 24 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 6 months. GR: High.

Uses: A decoction made from the whole plant has been used to treat gas problems and body pain. The root is diuretic and purgative.

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Arrangement: Opposite
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: More than 5 cm
Leaf width: More than 5 cm
Flower colour: White/Cream
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: 1 to 3 cm
Fruit colour: Black
Fruit size: 3 to 5 cm
Fruit type: Berry
**Pleurostylia opposita**
CELASTRACEAE

Names: Sirupiyari (T)

Description: A shrub, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: This shrub can be found in the open, or as a component of the understory in a mature forest.

Landscape information: It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

Propagation: Clean and soak seeds for 6 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 21-30 days. GR: Medium.

Uses: This shrub yields beautiful furniture wood, and it is also used for making combs.

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Arrangement: Decussate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: More than 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: White
Flower aroma: No
Flower size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit colour: White
Fruit size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit type: Drupe

---

**Tarenna asiatica**
RUBIACEAE

Names: Tharani (T)/ Bingi papadi (H)/ Humility before the Divine in the physical nature (M)

Description: A shrub, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: This shrub can be found in the open, or as a component of the understory in a mature forest.

Landscape information: It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

Propagation: Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, when dry sow in beds. Seeds very small. GT: 60-90 days. GR: Medium.

Uses: The leaves have been reportedly used as a treatment for excessive flatulence.

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Arrangement: Decussate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: More than 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: White/Cream
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit colour: Black
Fruit size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit type: Berry
**Tricalysia sphaerocarpa**

Rubiaceae

*Names:* Pachai Nazhuvai (T)

*Description:* A small tree to 6 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless. Also known as *Discospermum sphaerocarpum.*

*Habit:* Mature specimens are often found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

*Landscape information:* It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

*Propagation:* Soak seeds for 12 hours before sowing.

GT: 7-10 days. GR: High.

*Uses:* The wood is used for making combs.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Decussate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Green
- **Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit type:** Berry

---

**Cassine glauca**

Celastraceae

*Names:* Ceylon tea (C)/ Kanneer Maram (T)/ Jamrassi (H)

*Description:* A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

*Habit:* Mature specimens can be found as stand alone trees, or in remnants that are less disturbed. It can also be found in hedgerows in a modified form.

*Landscape information:* It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

*Propagation:* Soak for 12 hours, then clean and sow directly in bags or beds.

GT: 30 days. GR: High.

*Uses:* The root has been used for snake bites and swellings. The wood is useful in making cabinets, combs and picture frames.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Green
- **Flower aroma:** No
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** White
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Drupe
**Strychnos nux-vomica**

**Names:** Poison nut (C)/ Etti (T)/ Jahar (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** Mature specimens are often found as stand alone trees or in hedgerows, however also found in degraded areas in a modified form.

**Landscape information:** It is slow growing and drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 24 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** This plant is used in Ayurvedic and homeopathic medicine. The seeds, flowers and bark contain poisonous compounds and should be treated with care.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Orange

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Berry

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**Strychnos potatorum**

**Names:** Clearing nut (C)/ Thetraan Kottai (T)/ Khaia (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun, it is a component of the deciduous forest type, and is rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** This is a beautiful, slow growing tree.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 24 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The seed paste has reported use as a local application for diabetes, for eye diseases and for stimulating body strength. It is also used to clarify drinking water.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Purple/Blue

**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit type:** Berry
**Garcinia spicata**
CLUSIACEAE

**Names:** Bitter garcinia (C)/ Kaattuppinnai (T)/ Tavir (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** Mature specimens are found close to the coast in forest remnants that are generally undisturbed.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has evergreen foliage, and is slow growing. Can be grown by direct sowing of seeds in the shade.

**Propagation:** Clean and wash seeds, no need to soak them. Sow directly in bags, and keep seedlings in the shade. GT: 21-30 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** The seed oil has been used as a treatment for skin diseases. The wood is useful for general construction purposes.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
**Thorn:** Absent
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** Yellow
**Flower aroma:** Yes
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
**Fruit colour:** Yellow
**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm
**Fruit type:** Berry

**Syzygium cumini**
MYRTACEAE

**Names:** Indian blackberry (C)/ Naaval (T)/ Jamun (H)/ Mastery (M)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is brevi-deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** A common tree found in disturbed areas, as well as a component of mature forest stands.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, attracts animals and birds, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags. GT: 7-10 days. GR: Very High.

**Uses:** The fruit is edible for humans and many other animals. The bark has been used for menstrual problems, and the seed powder to treat diabetes.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
**Thorn:** Absent
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** White/Cream
**Flower aroma:** Yes
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
**Fruit colour:** Purple/Blue
**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm
**Fruit type:** Berry
**Wrightia tinctoria**  
**APOCYNACEAE**

**Names:** Pala indigo (C)/ Vetpaalai (T)/ Doodhi (H)/ Religious thought (M)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is often found in rocky areas as a component of the deciduous forest type, and it is rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** This tree is good as a feature in the garden.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for a few hours, then sow in beds or trays. Germination is spread out over a number of weeks.

**Uses:** The leaves have been used to treat dog bites. The wood is used for making toys and temple carts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leaf Type</th>
<th>Simple</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaf Arrangement</td>
<td>Opposite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorn</td>
<td>Absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf length</td>
<td>More than 5 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf width</td>
<td>1.5 to 5 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower colour</td>
<td>White/Cream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower aroma</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower size</td>
<td>1 to 3 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit colour</td>
<td>Brown/Rusty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit size</td>
<td>More than 5 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit type</td>
<td>Seedpod</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Terminalia arjuna**  
**COMBRETACEAE**

**Names:** Arjuna (C)/ Marudha Maram (T)/ Kahua (H)

**Description:** A large spreading tree over 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant is naturally found along rivers, although now extensively planted around tanks and in afforestation projects.

**Landscape information:** This tree is slow growing, has beautiful bark, and is drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Soak seeds for a few days. When fruit opens extract seeds, then sow in beds.

**Uses:** The bark is reportedly used for the treatment of cardiovascular ailments, while the bark ash may help in treating scorpion sting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leaf Type</th>
<th>Simple</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaf Arrangement</td>
<td>Opposite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorn</td>
<td>Absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf length</td>
<td>More than 5 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf width</td>
<td>1.5 to 5 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower colour</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower aroma</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower size</td>
<td>Less than 1 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit colour</td>
<td>Brown/Rusty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit size</td>
<td>More than 5 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit type</td>
<td>Drupe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Terminalia bellirica**

**COMBRETACEAE**

**Names:** Belliric myrobalan (C)/ Thandrikkai (T)/ Bahera (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant enjoys the full sun, it is a component of the deciduous forest type, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands. It is often planted on tank bunds.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow straight into bags. GT: 30 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** Known as “Bibhitaki” in ayurveda, it is a component of the triphala medicine. The wood is valued for construction materials.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Terminalia chebula**

**COMBRETACEAE**

**Names:** Black myrobalam (C)/ Kaukkaai (T)/ Harra (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is found as stand alone trees in agricultural land, as a component of the deciduous forest type, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It can be used for variety in the landscape.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags. GT: 30 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** A decoction made from the fruit has been used as a remedy for constipation. It is regarded as the best natural tanning agent.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Yellow

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe
**Terminalia paniculata**  
**COMBRETACEAE**

**Names:** Kindal tree (C)/ Pillai Marudhu (T)/ Asvakarnah (H)

**Description:** A large spreading tree over 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is found as standalone trees in the hills, as a component of the deciduous forest type, and is rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** This is a beautiful, slow growing tree.

**Propagation:** A large quantity of seeds need to be sown and kept moist for a long time.

GT: Unknown. GR: low.

**Uses:** The flowers have been used as a remedy for cholera. The wood is used for general construction purposes.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Mitragyna parvifolia**  
**RUBIACEAE**

**Names:** Kaim (C)/ Neerkkadambai (T)/ Guri (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant is a component of riverine vegetation, and is found mainly near ponds or seasonal streams.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and spread in trays, keeping them always moist. Transplant only after a few leaves appear. Spray copper sulphate against fungus. Requires half sun.

GT: 10-14 days. GR: Medium to low.

**Uses:** This tree provides valuable timber, and is used for planks and rafters in construction.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Capsule
**Carissa spinarum**
APOCYNACEAE

**Names:** Currant bush (C)/ Kalakai (T)/ Kanuvan (H)

**Description:** A straggler, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it has thorns.

**Habit:** This shrub is found either in mature stands reaching up into the canopy, or in more disturbed areas straggling over other plants.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in trays. GT: 1 month. GR: High.

**Uses:** The fruits are edible, and the roots mixed with coconut milk have been used to treat mouth ulcers.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
**Thorn:** Straight
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** White/Cream
**Flower aroma:** Yes
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
**Fruit colour:** Black
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
**Fruit type:** Berry

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**Clerodendrum inerme**
LAMIACEAE

**Names:** Seaside clerodendron (C)/ Peechangan (T)/ Sankuppi (H)/ Perfect planning of work (M)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless. Also known as *Volkameria inermis*.

**Habit:** A coastal species of disturbed areas, it grows in full sun, disappearing if the canopy closes. Generally it is a shrub, but will grow as a straggler if conditions allow.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant and attracts butterflies.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in trays or beds. Can propagate from cuttings. GT: 30-60 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** This plant is used in Ayurveda for the treatment of rheumatism and skin disease.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
**Thorn:** Absent
**Leaf length:** 1 to 3 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** White/Cream
**Flower aroma:** Yes
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
**Fruit type:** Capsule
**Premna corymbosa**  
**LAMIACEAE**

**Names:** Munnai (T)

**Description:** A straggler, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** A plant found on the edge of mature stands or in disturbed areas. It can either grow up into the canopy as a straggler, or it can stand alone as a shrub.

**Landscape information:** It is a good component in ecological landscaping.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Can propagate from cuttings. GT: up to 6 months. GR: low.

**Uses:** The leaf juice has been applied externally for dropsy. The roots have been used as laxative, and for the treatment of stomach ache.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Purple/Blue  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Premna serratifolia**  
**LAMIACEAE**

**Names:** Headache tree (C)/ Pasu munnai (T)/ Ageta (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This is a coastal species found in the open, or as a component of the understory in a mature forest. It will act as a staggler if conditions allow.

**Landscape information:** It attracts butterflies, is drought tolerant, and can be used as a border plant.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Can propagate from cuttings. GT: 1 month. GR: High.

**Uses:** This plant has traditionally been used for the treatment of rheumatism, neuralgia and headaches.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Black  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Drupe
**Premna tomentosa**

**LAMIACEAE**

**Names:** Dusky fire-brand teak (C)/ Erumai munnai (T)/ Bakar (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub enjoys the full sun. It is generally found on hillocks, and it is a component of the deciduous forest type.

**Landscape information:** It attracts bees, is slow growing, and drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays.

GT: 1-2 months. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** A milk extracted from the bark has been applied as a treatment for boils, and the leaves are reported to be diuretic.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Red
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Benkara malabarica**

**RUBIACEAE**

**Names:** Sirukarai (T)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it has thorns.

**Habit:** A shrub found mainly in disturbed areas, it grows in full sun, disappearing if the canopy closes.

**Landscape information:** It can be used as a live fence, it attracts butterflies, birds eat the fruit, and it is drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Seedling aftercare required after transplanting.

GT: 60-90 days. GR: Low.

**Uses:** This plant has been used in treating diarrhea, dysentery, abdominal pain, and throat infections.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
- **Thorn:** Straight
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Black
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Berry
**Catunaregam spinosa**

**RUBIACEAE**

**Names:** Emetic nut (C)/Madhukkarai (T)/Mainhar (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it has thorns.

**Habit:** This shrub is found mainly in disturbed areas, it grows in the full sun, and disappears if the canopy closes.

**Landscape information:** It is good as a live fence.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in trays. GT: 21-30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The fruits have been used as a fish poison, and the thorns have been used for ear piercing.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** 1 to 3 cm

**Leaf width:** 0.5 to 1.5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Yellow

**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit type:** Berry

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**Gardenia latifolia**

**RUBIACEAE**

**Names:** Boxwood gardenia (C)/Kaattu Marikkalam (T)/Papda (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is often found on hillocks, and is a component of the deciduous forest type. It is rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It has beautiful flowers, and can be used as a garden feature as it has a lovely form.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Spray copper sulphate against fungus. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The timber is used for making combs and turnery articles. The fruit, seed and root are used to treat fever.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Berry
**Gardenia resinifera**
Rubiaceae

**Names:** Brilliant gardenia (C)/ Kambali Pisin (T)/ Deekamali (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless. **Habit:** This shrub enjoys the full sun. It is found on hillocks, and is a component of the deciduous forest type. It is rarely found in mature evergreen stands. **Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing. **Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Spray copper sulphate against fungus. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium. **Uses:** The resin has been used for relieving toothache and fever. The wood is used in turnery and for making combs.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** More than 5 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty  
**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Berry

**Psilanthus wightianus**
Rubiaceae

**Names:** Wild coffee (C) / Mutti (T)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless. Also known as *Coffea wightiana*. **Habit:** This shrub can be found in the open, or as a component of the understory in a disturbed forest. **Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, and attracts butterflies. **Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 21-30 days. GR: High. **Uses:** The fruits can be used as a substitute for coffee.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite  
**Thorn:** Straight  
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Purple/Blue  
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit type:** Berry
**Azima tetracantha**

**Names:** Needle bush (C) / Sangan (T)/ Kantagur kamai (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it has thorns.

**Habit:** This shrub is found mainly in disturbed coastal areas behind mangroves, it grows in full sun, and disappears if the canopy closes.

**Landscape information:** It is an effective hedge plant, is drought tolerant, and is slow growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds. GT: 30-60 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** A decoction made from the leaves has been used as a remedy for gastric conditions and for colds, the roots a remedy for snake bite, and the berry juice for earache.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** White

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Berry

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**Santalum album**

**Names:** Sandalwood (C)/ Sandhanam (T)/ Chandan (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark.

**Habit:** This tree is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found as a small sapling by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** This is a beautiful, slow growing tree. Listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red list.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Needs host plant to establish after transplanting. GT: 10-14 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** A wood paste has been used to treat headache, pimples and skin diseases.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Red

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Purple/Blue

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe
**Stenosiphonion russellianum**

*ACANTHACEAE*

**Names:** Heart-leaf coneflower (C)/ Kattu Kurinji (T)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub is normally found in the understory of the forest, and only if the canopy has been recently removed will it be found in the open sun.

**Landscape information:** It attracts butterflies, is drought tolerant, and can be used as a border plant with occasional trimming.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Can propagate from cuttings. GT: 1-2 months. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** This plant has been traditionally used as a blood purifier.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Blue
- **Flower aroma:** No
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Capsule

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**Hymenodictyon orixense**

*RUBIACEAE*

**Names:** Bridal couch tree (C)/ Kothamaram (T)/ Bhormal (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun, it is a component of the deciduous forest type, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The bark has been used as an astringent. The wood is a valuable timber, and the leaves are used as cattle fodder.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** More than 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Green
- **Flower aroma:** No
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
- **Fruit size:** More than 5 cm
- **Fruit type:** Capsule
**Anogeissus latifolia**
**COMBRETACEAE**

**Names:** Axle wood tree (C)/ Vekkaali (T)/ Dhavda (H)

**Description:** A tall tree over 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun, it is a component of the deciduous forest type, and is rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** This is a beautiful, slow growing tree.

**Propagation:** Use large numbers of seeds, kept moist in shady area. GT: Unknown. GR: Low.

**Uses:** This plant has been used for snakebite and scorpion stings. The wood makes a good fuel and fine charcoal, and the timber is strong and durable.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Yellow
- **Flower aroma:** No
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Nut

**Gmelina asiatica**
**LAMIACEAE**

**Names:** Asian bushbeech (C)/ Nilakkumala (T)/ Badhara (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it has thorns.

**Habit:** A plant found mainly in disturbed areas, it grows in full sun, disappearing if the canopy closes.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Crack and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. Attacked by squirrels in beds. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** Fruit paste applied to the scalp is reported to clear dandruff.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Yellow
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Yellow
- **Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit type:** Drupe
**Canthium coromandelicum**

**Rubiaceae**

**Names:** Coromandel boxwood (C)/ Mullukkarai (T)/ Nagabala (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it has thorns.

**Habit:** A shrub found mainly in disturbed areas. It grows in the full sun, although it is occasionally found as a small tree in mature forest stands.

**Landscape information:** It is a good choice for a live fence.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in trays.

**GT:** 1 month. **GR:** High.

**Uses:** The plant has been used as a treatment for dysentery, high blood pressure, and to purify the circulatory system.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite  
**Thorn:** Straight  
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** yellow  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Orange  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Chionanthus zeylanicus**

**Oleaceae**

**Names:** Fringe tree (C)/ Kattimuruchan (T)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** Mature specimens are often found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has evergreen foliage, and is slow growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and crack seeds, then sow deep in beds (2cm). Care when transplanting, root may be very deep. **GT:** 1-2 years. **GR:** Medium.

**Uses:** Bark extracts have been shown to have antioxidant activity.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Purple/Blue  
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit type:** Drupe
**Morinda coreia**
Rubiaceae

**Names:** Forest noni (C)/ Nuna (T)/ Achi (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** It is fast growing, relatively short lived, and is good for creating an early canopy.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 4-6 months. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** A decoction made from the leaves has been used for stomach problems. The wood is valuable for agricultural implements, and carts.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Decussate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Black
- **Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit type:** Berry

**Buchanania axillaris**
Anacardiaceae

**Names:** Cuddapah almond (C)/ Kolamaavu (T)/ Char (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun, and it is found in remnant forest areas.

**Landscape information:** This is a beautiful, slow growing tree.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow 2 seeds directly per bag. High mortality rate post germination.

**Uses:** The seeds have been used as a general tonic, and the powdered bark mixed with honey has been used for dysentery.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Red
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Drupe
Celtis Philippensis
CANNABACEAE

Names: Vellai Thovarai (T)

Description: A medium sized tree to about 6 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: A component of mature evergreen stands, this tree is found in the Western Ghats and the lower reaches of the Eastern Ghats.

Landscape information: This is a beautiful, slow growing tree.

Propagation: Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in trays or beds. Seedling aftercare required. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

Uses: The seed oil of this tree is edible, and the roots are a reported remedy for diarrhea. The wood is used for tools and furniture, and the bark can be made into rope and paper.

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: More than 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: White/Cream
Flower aroma: No
Flower size: 1 to 3 cm
Fruit colour: Orange
Fruit size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit type: Drupe

Diospyros Affinis
EBENACEAE

Names: Chinnathuvarai (T)

Description: A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: Mature specimens are generally found on hillocks rather than on the plains. It is found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

Landscape information: It is drought tolerant, has evergreen foliage, and is slow growing.

Propagation: Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. GT: 10-14 days. GR: High.

Uses: The wood is used for making agricultural implements, carts and furniture.

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: More than 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: White/Cream
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: 1 to 3 cm
Fruit colour: Yellow
Fruit size: 1 to 3 cm
Fruit type: Berry
**Diospyros chloroxylon**

**Names:** Green ebony persimmon (C)/ Karu Vakkanai (T)/ Kinnu (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and with thorns found on young growth.

**Habit:** This plant enjoys the full sun where it is found on hillocks, or on tank bunds.

**Landscape information:** It is a good component in ecological landscaping.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds with light soil covering. Sprinkle with wood ash to stop caterpillars. GT: 10-14 days. GR: Low.

**Uses:** The fruits are edible, and a paste made out of the leaves has been used as a treatment for burns.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
**Thorn:** Absent
**Leaf length:** 1 to 3 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** White/Cream
**Flower aroma:** Yes
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
**Fruit colour:** Purple/Blue
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
**Fruit type:** Berry

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**Diospyros ebenum**

**Names:** Ebony (C)/ Karungaali (T)/ Abnus (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** Mature specimens are often found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has evergreen foliage, and is slow growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. Early-ripe fruits have higher germination.

**GT:** 10-14 days. **GR:** High.

**Uses:** The wood is called Ebony, and is used as a valuable timber for furniture, musical and agricultural instruments, and utensils.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
**Thorn:** Absent
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** White/Cream
**Flower aroma:** Yes
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
**Fruit colour:** Black
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
**Fruit type:** Berry
**Diospyros ferrea**

*Names*: Ironwood (C)/ Irumbili (T)/ Angaru (H)

*Description*: A small tree to 6 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless. Also known as *Diospyros vera*.

*Habit*: Mature trees are often found in forest remnants that are less disturbed, however it can also be found in degraded areas as a shrub.

*Landscape Information*: It is drought tolerant and is slow growing. Listed as endangered on the IUCN Red list.

*Propagation*: Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. GT: 10-14 days, GR: High.

*Uses*: The wood is used for making boat anchors, handles and rafters, and the fruit is edible.

*Leaf Type*: Simple

*Leaf Arrangement*: Alternate

*Thorn*: Absent

*Leaf length*: 1 to 3 cm

*Leaf width*: 0.5 to 1.5 cm

*Flower colour*: White/Cream

*Flower aroma*: Yes

*Flower size*: Less than 1 cm

*Fruit colour*: Red

*Fruit size*: Less than 1 cm

*Fruit type*: Berry

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**Diospyros melanoxylon**

*Names*: Coromandel ebony (C)/ Thumbili (T)/ Tendu (H)

*Description*: A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

*Habit*: This tree enjoys the full sun where it is found on hillocks, or in disturbed areas.

*Landscape Information*: It is a good component in ecological landscaping.

*Propagation*: Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. Very slow growth in nursery. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

*Uses*: The dried flowers have been used as a treatment for urinary, skin and blood diseases. The leaves are used as a wrapper for beedi in some states of India.

*Leaf Type*: Simple

*Leaf Arrangement*: Alternate

*Thorn*: Absent

*Leaf length*: More than 5 cm

*Leaf width*: More than 5 cm

*Flower colour*: White/Cream

*Flower aroma*: Yes

*Flower size*: Less than 1 cm

*Fruit colour*: Yellow

*Fruit size*: More than 5 cm

*Fruit type*: Berry
**Diospyros montana**  
EBENACEAE

**Names:** Mottled ebony (C)/ Karundhuvalisu (T)/ Bistendu (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun, it is often found in disturbed areas, and grows well on clay soils.

**Landscape information:** It attracts bees, is slow growing, and it is drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. It remains dormant for a few months if sown in the summer.  
GT: 10 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The fruits are poisonous, but have been used externally in the treatment of boils and spider stings.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple  
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
- **Thorn:** Absent  
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
- **Flower colour:** Green  
- **Flower aroma:** Yes  
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
- **Fruit colour:** Yellow  
- **Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm  
- **Fruit type:** Berry

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**Putranjiva roxburghii**  
PUTRANJIVACEAE

**Names:** Lucky bean tree (C)/ Puthirajeevi (T)/ Putijia (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant is generally found by rivers, or near to water bodies.

**Landscape information:** This tree has pendant branches, is slow growing, and is drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Crack seeds and soak for 24 hours, then sow in beds or trays.  
GT: 10-14 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The leaves and fruits are used to treat colds, fevers, rheumatism and liver complaints. Necklaces of seeds are used for protection.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple  
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
- **Thorn:** Absent  
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream  
- **Flower aroma:** Yes  
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
- **Fruit colour:** Yellow  
- **Fruit size:** More than 5 cm  
- **Fruit type:** Drupe
**Atalantia monophylla**

**RUTACEAE**

**Names:** Wild lemon (C)/ Kaattu Elumitchai (T)/ Bannimbu (H)/ Absence of desire (M)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and with thorns found on young growth.

**Habit:** Mature trees are more often found in remnants that are less disturbed, however it is also found in degraded areas as a shrub.

**Landscape information:** This tree is a good hedge plant, is drought tolerant, and is slow growing.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and sow directly in bags or beds. Sprinkle with wood ash to stop caterpillars.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GT</th>
<th>GR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 days</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Uses:** The fruit oil has been used for chronic rheumatism. The fruit is used to make pickle.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Green

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Berry

---

**Pamburus missionis**

**RUTACEAE**

**Names:** Wild orange (C)/ Kattu Naarathal (T)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and with thorns found on young growth.

**Habit:** Mature specimens are mostly found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

**Landscape information:** It is slow growing, and is drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 6 hours, then sow in beds or trays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GT</th>
<th>GR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21-30 days</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Uses:** The aerial parts have been used in the treatment of swelling, rheumatism and paralysis. The wood is used for handicrafts.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Yellow

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Berry
**Salvadora persica**

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is found in coastal areas, or on black cotton soil. It is also tolerant of saline conditions.

**Landscape information:** This is a beautiful, slow growing tree.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Needs sun after transplanting. GT: 5-10 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** The leaf juice has been applied externally for rheumatism.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** No
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Pink
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Madhuca longifolia**

**Description:** A large spreading tree over 10 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** This is a beautiful, slow growing tree.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. GT: 21-30 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** The fruits and flowers of this tree are edible. The seed oil is used for lighting sacred lamps, and the wood is used for agricultural implements, temple carts and boats.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** More than 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Green
- **Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm
- **Fruit type:** Berry
**Madhuca longifolia var. latifolia**
SAPOTACEAE

**Names:** Honey tree (C)/ Naati ilupparai (T)/ Mahua (H)

**Description:** A large spreading tree over 10 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** This is a beautiful, slow growing tree.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds.

GT: 21-30 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** Leaves made into a paste have been used for stinging and itching problems of the skin. The wood is used for agricultural and temple equipment.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Green
- **Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm
- **Fruit type:** Berry

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**Manilkara hexandra**
SAPOTACEAE

**Names:** Ceylon rosewood (C)/ Kanupala (T)/ Khinni (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** Mature specimens are often found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has evergreen foliage, and is slow growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays.

GT: 30-60 days. GR: Medium to low.

**Uses:** The fruits are eaten to reduce internal pain, while the bark is used for fever. The wood has timber value, where it is used for posts and pillars.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Yellow
- **Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit type:** Berry
**Mimusops elengi**  
*Sapotaceae*

**Names:** Bullet wood (C)/ Magizham (T)/ Maulsari (H)/ Patience (M)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless.  

**Habit:** Mature specimens are often found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.  

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has evergreen foliage, and is slow growing.  

**Propagation:** Clean seeds, scratch and soak for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags. Slow growing in nursery.  

**GT:** 21-30 days. **GR:** Medium.

**Uses:** A decoction made from the bark is a good tonic, while leaves have been used to treat headache, toothache, wounds and sore eyes.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Orange  
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit type:** Berry

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**Capparis brevispina**  
*Capparaceae*

**Names:** Indian caper (C)/ Kaattu Aadhandai (T)/ Triple aspiration (M)

**Description:** A shrub, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it has thorns.  

**Habit:** A shrub found mainly in disturbed areas, it can also be found on the edges of mature forest stands.  

**Landscape information:** It has beautiful flowers, and can be used as a garden feature.  

**Propagation:** Soak seeds for 12 hours, clean, then sow in beds or trays.  

**GT:** 7-10 Days. **GR:** Medium.  

**Uses:** It has edible fruits for both humans and animals, and a pickle made from the fruit is reported to help with digestive complaints.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Recurved  
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Red  
**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Berry
**Capparis divaricata**
*CAPPARACEAE*

**Names:** Spreading caper (C)/ Aadhandai (T)/ Pakhoda (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it has thorns. **Habit:** This shrub enjoys the full sun. It is generally found in disturbed areas, and is rarely found in mature forest stands. **Landscape information:** It has beautiful flowers and it attracts butterflies and birds. **Propagation:** Soak seeds for 12 hours, clean, then sow in beds or trays. Seedling aftercare required after transplanting. **GT:** 7-10 days. **GR:** Medium.

**Uses:** The unripe fruit can be made into a pickle which is reported to help with digestive ailments.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Recurved  
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 0.5 to 1.5 cm  
**Flower colour:** Yellow  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Red  
**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Berry

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**Dimorphocalyx glabellus**
*EUPHORBIACEAE*

**Names:** Malaikkulukki (T)/ Jodpakli (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless. **Habit:** This plant is normally found in the understory of the forest, and only if the canopy has been recently removed will it be found in the open sun. **Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing. **Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. **GT:** 10-14 days. **GR:** High.

**Uses:** The leaves of this shrub are diuretic and purgative, and have been used in the treatment of dyspepsia and rheumatism.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty  
**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Capsule
**Suregada angustifolia**  
**EUPHORBIACEAE**

**Names:** South Indian suregada (C)/ Kakaipalai (T)

**Description:** A shrub, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless. Also known as *Suregada lanceolata*.  
**Habit:** This shrub can be found in the open, or as a component of the understory in a mature forest.  
**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.  
**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays.  
**Uses:** The seed paste has been used to treat leprosy, and the roots have been used to treat fever.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** No  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty  
**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Capsule

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**Eugenia bracteata**  
**MYRTACEAE**

**Names:** Roxburgh’s cherry (C)/ Kaya (T)

**Description:** A shrub, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless. Also known as *Eugenia roxburghii*.  
**Habit:** This shrub can be found in coastal areas, on sandy soils, in the open, or as a component of the understory in a mature forest.  
**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.  
**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. Transplant early. Seedling aftercare required.  
**Uses:** The fruits are edible.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Red  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Berry
**Barringtonia acutangula**
LECITHIDACEAE

**Names:** Indian oak (C)/ Neerkkadambai (T)/ Hijjal (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is found mainly near water bodies, and commonly on heavy soils as it is tolerant of clay soil with poor drainage. It can also withstand seasonal water logging.

**Landscape information:** It attracts bees, has evergreen foliage, is slow growing and is drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Soak for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags.

**GT:** 30 days. **GR:** High.

**Uses:** It is known as “Dhatriphala” in Ayurvedic medicine. The wood is used for timber, and the leaf has been used as a fish poison.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Red

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit type:** Berry

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**Miliusa eriocarpa**
ANNONACEAE

**Names:** Woolly-fruit miliusa (C)

**Description:** A shrub, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub is normally found in the understory of the forest, and only if the canopy has been recently removed will it be found in the open sun.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, and is a good plant in semi-shade.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays.

**GT:** 6 months. **GR:** High.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Red

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Red

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe
Memecylon umbellatum  
MELASTOMATACEAE

Names: Ironwood (C)/ Kaasan (T)/ Anjan (H)/ Miracle or Air of Auroville (M)

Description: A small tree to 6 meters, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: Mature trees are more often found in forest remnants that are less disturbed, however also found in degraded areas as a shrub.

Landscape information: It has beautiful flowers, and can be used as a garden feature.

Propagation: Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow 4 seeds directly in each bag. Water with Panchagavya every 10 days.

GT: 10-14 days. GR: Medium.

Uses: The leaves have been used as a treatment for venereal diseases. The wood is used for minor wood crafts.

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: 3 to 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: Blue
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit colour: Purple/Blue
Fruit size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit type: Berry

Streblus asper  
MORACEAE

Names: Sandpaper tree (C)/ Piraai (T)/ Daheya (H)

Description: A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: Mature specimens are often found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

Landscape information: It is drought tolerant, has evergreen foliage, and is slow growing.

Propagation: Clean seeds and sow directly in beds or tray. No need to soak. GT: 7-10 days. GR: Medium.

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: More than 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: Green
Flower aroma: No
Flower size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit colour: Yellow
Fruit size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit type: Drupe

Uses: A decoction made from the bark has been used as a treatment for fever, diarrhea and dysentery. The leaves are used as sandpaper to clean cooking utensils.
**Drypetes porteri**

**Names:** Agil (T)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This is a rare tree. It is found on hillocks, often associated with seasonal streams.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has evergreen foliage, and is slow growing. Listed as endangered on the IUCN Red list.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. Spray with copper sulphate against fungus.

GT: 10-14 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** The fruits are used for fodder for goats and cows, and the wood is used by local craftsmen for the production of combs and other small wooden items.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Drypetes sepiaria**

**Names:** Hedge boxwood (C)/ Veerai (T)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** Mature specimens are often found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has evergreen foliage, and is slow growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. Use 2-3 seeds per bag and place it in half sunny place.

GT: 21-30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The fruits and seeds are edible, and it is used for fencing and firewood.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Red

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe
**Polyalthia korinti**
ANNONACEAE

**Names:** Sirunetti (T)

**Description:** A shrub, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub is normally found in the understory, and only if the canopy is recently removed is it found in the open sun.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, and is a good plant for landscaping in the semi-shade.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays.

GT: 60-90 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The fruits are edible. The wood is hard and durable, but usually too small for most purposes.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Green
- **Flower aroma:** No
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Red
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Monocarp

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**Polyalthia suberosa**
ANNONACEAE

**Names:** Corky debbar tree (C)/ Kaattu Netti (T)/ Cham-khirni (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub is normally found in the understory of the forest or in shady hedgerows, and only if the canopy has been recently removed will it be found in the open sun.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 24 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 60-90 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The fruit is edible. The wood is used in carpentry, and in the masts and spars of small boats.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Yellow
- **Flower aroma:** No
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Purple/Blue
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Monocarp
**Hibiscus tiliaceus**
MALVACEAE

**Names:** Beach hibiscus (C)/ Neer paruththi (T)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is generally found in coastal areas, often behind mangrove forests. Commonly planted in villages for shade.

**Landscape information:** It is a coastal species with beautiful flowers, is relatively fast growing, and is drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Can propagate from cuttings.

**GT:** 1-2 months. **GR:** Medium.

**Uses:** The wood is used for sea craft construction and wood carving. The stem fibers make good ropes.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** More than 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Yellow
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** 3 to 5 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
- **Fruit size:** More than 5 cm
- **Fruit type:** Capsule

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**Hugonia mystax**
LINACEAE

**Names:** Climbing wax (C)/ Mothirakanni (T)/ Kamsamarah (H)

**Description:** A straggler, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant is found either in mature stands reaching up into the canopy, or in more disturbed areas straggling over other plants.

**Landscape information:** As a climber this plant can be used for covering walls.

**Propagation:** Clean, crack and soak seeds for 30 mins, then sow in trays. Aftercare required once transplanted.

**GT:** 30 days. **GR:** Low.

**Uses:** The root paste has been used externally to reduce inflamed swellings.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Leaf width:** 0.5 to 1.5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Yellow
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Red
- **Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit type:** Drupe
**Alangium salviifolium**  
*CORNACEAE*

**Names:** Sage-leaved alangium (C)/ Azhinjil (T)/ Ankol (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** It attracts birds, is slow growing, and is drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Soak for 12 hours, then clean and sow directly in bags.  GT: 30 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** The leaves have been used to treat rheumatic pain, a root decoction for fever and skin diseases, and the root and bark for skin problems.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Red
- **Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm
- **Fruit type:** Berry

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**Pterospermum suberifolium**  
*MALVACEAE*

**Names:** Cork-leaved bayur (C)/ Vennangu (T)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is brevi-deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** Mature specimens are often found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 24 hours, then sow in beds or trays.  GT: 10-14 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** The flower is made into a paste with rice washed water, and has been used as an application for chronic headaches.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** More than 5 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
- **Fruit size:** More than 5 cm
- **Fruit type:** Capsule
**Pterospermum xylocarpum**  
**MALVACEAE**

**Names:** Tada (C)/ Pulavu (T)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is brevi-deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** Mature specimens are generally found on the hillocks, and occasionally on the plains as part of a mature forest.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 24 hours, then sow in beds or trays.  
GT: 10-14 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** The leaves and flowers have been used to treat vaginal discharge, and the bark has been used to treat asthma.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** More than 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** More than 5 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
- **Fruit size:** More than 5 cm
- **Fruit type:** Capsule

**Ficus amplissima**  
**MORACEAE**

**Names:** Indian bat tree (C)/ Kal Ichi (T)/ Piparee (H)

**Description:** A large spreading tree over 10 meters, it is brevi-deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and spread in trays, keeping them always moist.  
Transplant only after a few leaves appear.  
Spray copper sulphate against fungus. Requires half sun.  
GT: 10-14 days. GR: Medium to low.

**Uses:** The fruit is edible. The latex has been used for fresh wounds.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** More than 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Green
- **Flower aroma:** No
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Black
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Fig
**Ficus arnottiana**  
**MORACEAE**

**Names:** Indian rock fig (C)/ Kodi Arasu (T)/ Bassari (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun, and is generally found on hillocks in open areas.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant and is relatively fast growing. It gets distinguished from Peepal by its bright pink veins and leaf stalk.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and spread in trays, keeping them always moist. Transplant only after a few leaves appear. Spray copper sulphate against fungus. Requires half sun. GT: 10-14 days. GR: Low.

**Uses:** The leaves and bark are used for skin diseases, cuts and wounds.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** Green  
**Flower aroma:** No  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Purple/Blue  
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit type:** Fig

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**Ficus benghalensis**  
**MORACEAE**

**Names:** Banyan (C)/ Aala Maram (T)/ Barh (H)

**Description:** A large spreading tree over 10 meters, it is brevi-deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road.

**Landscape information:** It has a large spreading canopy, has beautiful flowers, and is good for planting in a park.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and spread in trays, keeping them always moist. Transplant only after a few leaves appear. Spray copper sulphate against fungus. Requires half sun. Can propagate from cuttings. GT: 10-14 days. GR: Medium to low.

**Uses:** The bark has reported tonic, astringent and cooling properties.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** Green  
**Flower aroma:** No  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Red  
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit type:** Fig
**Ficus hispida**

**Names:** Hairy fig (C)/ Peyathi (T)/ Gobla (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road or on tank bunds.

**Landscape information:** It is fast growing, and is good for creating an early canopy.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and spread in trays, keeping them always moist. Transplant only after a few leaves appear. Spray copper sulphate against fungus. Requires half sun. GT: 10-14 days. GR: Medium to low.

**Uses:** The unripe fruits are cooked and the bark fibre is used for cordage. The fruits have been used traditionally to treat cow intestinal worms.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Yellow

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Fig

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**Ficus microcarpa**

**Names:** Chinese banyan (C)/ Kalichchi (T)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is brevi-deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is generally found on the hillocks, either amongst open rocks, or as part of a mixed forest.

**Landscape information:** This is an interesting tree to include in a landscape as it has unique characteristics.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and spread in trays, keeping them always moist. Transplant only after a few leaves appear. Spray copper sulphate against fungus. Requires half sun. GT: 10-14 days. GR: Low.

**Uses:** Remedies made from this plant have been used to treat pain, fever, flu, malaria, bronchitis and rheumatism.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Orange

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Fig
**Ficus mollis**  
**MORACEAE**

**Names:** Soft fig (C)/ Kaattu Aal (T)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is found on hillocks, often at the top, or by exposed rock.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and spread in trays, keeping them always moist. Transplant only after a few leaves appear. Spray copper sulphate against fungus. Requires half sun. GT: 10-14 days. GR: Medium to low.

**Uses:** The latex is used medicinally. The crushed leaves have been used to treat boils, and the bark paste has been used for cuts and wounds.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** Brown  
**Flower aroma:** No  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Grey  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Fig

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**Ficus racemosa**  
**MORACEAE**

**Names:** Cluster fig tree (C)/ Vellai Athi (T)/ Gular (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road or on tank bunds.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant and slow growing.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and spread in trays, keeping them always moist. Use copper sulphate to prevent fungus in trays. Requires half sun. GT: 10-14 days. GR: Medium to low.

**Uses:** The fruits are edible, and the seeds are used to treat menstrual pain.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** Green  
**Flower aroma:** No  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Red  
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit type:** Fig
**Ficus religiosa**

**Names:** Bodhi Tree (C)/ Arasa Maram (T)/ Peepal (H)

**Description:** A large spreading tree over 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and spread in trays, keeping them always moist. Transplant only after a few leaves appear. Spray copper sulphate against fungus. Requires half sun.

**Uses:** The bark is used to treat eczema and the milk is applied externally to treat foot cracks.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Purple/Blue

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Fig

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**Ficus tinctoria**

**Names:** Dye fig (C)/ Kallathi (T)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road.

**Landscape information:** It is slow growing and drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and spread in trays, keeping them always moist. Use copper sulphate to prevent fungus in trays. Requires half sun.

**Uses:** The fruit is the source of a red fabric dye. The young shoots are eaten cooked or roasted.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Red

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Fig
Careya arborea
LECITHIDACEAE

Names: Wild guava (C)/ Pezhai Maram (T)/ Khumai (H)/ Liberation (M)

Description: A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.
Habit: This tree enjoys the full sun, it is a component of the deciduous forest type, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands.
Landscape information: This is an interesting tree to include in a landscape.
Propagation: Extract seeds from fruit, soak for 12 hours and sow in beds. Likes sun after transplanting.

GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.
Uses: The juice made from the flowers and honey has been given for cough and colds. The bark has been used to treat snakebites.

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: More than 5 cm
Leaf width: More than 5 cm
Flower colour: White/Cream
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: More than 5 cm
Fruit colour: green
Fruit size: More than 5 cm
Fruit type: Berry

Carmona retusa
BORAGINACEAE

Names: Fukien tea (C)/ Kurangu Vetrilai (T)/ Pala (H)

Description: A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless. Also known as Ehretia microphylla.
Habit: This shrub can be found in the open, or as a component of the understory in a mature forest.
Landscape information: It is drought tolerant and attracts butterflies. It can be grown as a hedge and for bonsai.
Propagation: Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in trays.

GT: 60-90 days. GR: High.
Uses: A decoction of the leaves has been used to treat dysentery and indigestion.

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: 3 to 5 cm
Leaf width: 0.5 to 1.5 cm
Flower colour: White/Cream
Flower aroma: No
Flower size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit colour: Brown/Rusty
Fruit size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit type: Drupe
**Ehretia pubescens**
BORAGINACEAE

**Names:** Aadali (T)/ Chamror (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless. Also known as *Ehretia laevis.*

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun, it is found in disturbed areas, but also in the understory of mature stands.

**Landscape information:** It attracts birds, and is drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean and dry seeds, then sow in beds with a light soil covering. Sprinkle with wood ash to stop caterpillars.

GT: 7-10 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** A decoction made from the roots has been used to treat venereal diseases.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
**Thorn:** Absent
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** White/Cream
**Flower aroma:** Yes
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
**Fruit colour:** Red
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Maytenus emarginata**
CELASTRACEAE

**Names:** Thorny staff tree (C)/ Vedippula (T)/ Baikal (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it has thorns. Also known as *Gymnosporia emarginata.*

**Habit:** This shrub is found mainly in disturbed areas, it grows in the full sun, and disappears if the canopy closes.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, and attracts butterflies.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 2 weeks. GR: High.

**Uses:** This shrub is good as a living fence.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
**Thorn:** Straight
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** White/Cream
**Flower aroma:** Yes
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
**Fruit type:** Capsule
**Mallotus philippensis**

**EUPHORBIACEAE**

**Names:** Red Kamala (C)/ Kunguma Maram (T)/ Kamala (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub enjoys the full sun. It is found in disturbed areas, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It is fast growing, and is good for creating an early canopy.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Suffers during transplantation. GT: 21-30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The glandular hairs from the fruits yields a golden red colour dye. The seed oil is used in paints and varnishes.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Red

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Red

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Capsule

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**Mallotus rhamnifolius**

**EUPHORBIACEAE**

**Names:** Buckthorn-leaved kamala (C)/ Marai-Yirdiyam (T)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub can be found in the open, or as a component of the understory in a mature forest.

**Landscape information:**

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays.

GT: 21-30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The leaves are a rich source of medicinal compounds.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Capsule
**Grewia hirsuta**
MALVACEAE

**Names:** Kukurbicha (C)/ Kalunnu (T)/ Kakarundah (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub can be found in the open, or as a component of the understory in a mature forest.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, and is slow growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 1 month. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The powdered root is mixed with water and applied as a dressing for wounds. There are also recorded uses in the treatment of heart disease, cough, diarrhea and fever.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
**Thorn:** Absent
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** White/Cream
**Flower aroma:** No
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
**Fruit colour:** Red
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Ximenia americana**
OLACACEAE

**Names:** Hog plum (C)/ Siru Yelandhai (T)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it has thorns.

**Habit:** A shrub found mainly in disturbed areas, it grows in the full sun, disappearing if the canopy closes.

**Landscape information:** The fruit have an attractive colour, and it can be grown as a hedge.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 24 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The fruit is edible, either raw or as a pickle, and the oil from the seed is used as a substitute for ghee. The wood can be used as a substitute for sandalwood.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
**Thorn:** Straight
**Leaf length:** 1 to 3 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** White/Cream
**Flower aroma:** Yes
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
**Fruit colour:** Orange
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
**Fruit type:** Drupe
**Flueggea leucopyrus**

**Phyllanthaceae**

**Names:** Bushweed (C)/ Vellaippoola (T)/ Shinar (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it has thorns.

**Habit:** A shrub found mainly in disturbed areas, it grows in the full sun, disappearing if the canopy closes.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant and attracts butterflies.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays.

**Uses:** The powdered leaves have been used as a head bath, and as a treatment for headaches.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Straight
- **Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** White
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Berry

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**Flacourtia indica**

**Salicaceae**

**Names:** Governor's Plum (C)/ Sothaikkala (T)/ Bilangada (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it has thorns.

**Habit:** This shrub can be found in the open, or as a component of the understory in a mature forest.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant and attracts butterflies.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays.

**Uses:** The fruits are edible, and are suitable for jam, jellies and syrups.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Straight
- **Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 0.5 to 1.5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Red
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Drupe
**Hildegardia populifolia**  
MALVACEAE

**Names:** Poplar leaved ardur (C)/Malaippuvarasu (T)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is a component of the deciduous forest type and is found on the hillocks.

**Landscape information:** This is an interesting tree to include in a landscape as it has unique characteristics. Listed as critically endangered on the IUCN Red list.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. GT: 10-14 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** This plant may be a potential source of antioxidants, and the wood is used for making combs.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** More than 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Red
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
- **Fruit size:** More than 5 cm
- **Fruit type:** Seedpod

**Breynia vitis-idaea**  
PHYLLANTHACEAE

**Names:** Mountain coffee bush (C)/Seppula (T)/Surasaruni (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with a smooth stem, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub can be found in the open, or as a component of the understory in a mature forest. Also found along river banks.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant and attracts butterflies.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 1-2 months. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** A decoction made from the roots has been given for snakebite, and the bark has been used to prevent haemorrhage.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Red
- **Flower aroma:** No
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Purple/Blue
- **Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit type:** Capsule
**Semecarpus anacardium**
ANACARDIACEAE

**Names:** Marking nut tree (C)/ Seran Kottai (T)/ Bhilawan (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun, it is generally found in disturbed areas, but mature specimens can also be found in evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It is a good component in ecological landscaping.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Use gloves when cleaning. GT: 6 months. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The nut was used by washer men and women to mark cloth before washing.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Black

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Nut

**Euphorbia antiquorum**
EUPHORBIACEAE

**Names:** Triangular spurge (C)/ Sadurakkalli (T)/ Tridhara (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it's leaves are only present for a brief period, with rough bark, and with thorns found on young growth.

**Habit:** This plant cannot tolerate shade, and enjoys the full sun. It is often found on hillocks.

**Landscape information:** This small tree attracts bees, and is good as a feature in the garden.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. Can propagate from cuttings.

**GT:** 1-2 months. **GR:** Medium.

**Uses:** The juice from the whole plant has been used to treat dropsy, nerve diseases, and to kill maggots in wounds.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** Less than 1 cm

**Leaf width:** Absent

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Red

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Capsule
**Euphorbia nivulia**  
**EUPHORBIACEAE**

**Names:** Leafy milk hedge (C)/ Ilai kalli (T)/ Katathohar (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and with thorns found on young growth.

**Habit:** This plant cannot tolerate shade, and enjoys the full sun. It is often found on hillocks.

**Landscape information:** It is slow growing and has a beautiful form.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. Can propagate from cuttings.

**GT:** 1-2 months. **GR:** Medium.

**Uses:** This plant is used in Ayurvedic medicine for bronchitis, asthma, leprosy and jaundice.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Straight  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** Green  
**Flower aroma:** No  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Capsule

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**Bridelia retusa**  
**PHYLLANTHACEAE**

**Names:** Spinous kino tree (C)/ Mul Vengai (T)/ Kaji (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it has thorns.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is generally found on hillocks, and occasionally on the plains on red soil.

**Landscape information:** It is fast growing, and is good for creating an early canopy.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays.

**GT:** 2 weeks. **GR:** High.

**Uses:** The bark mixed with sesame oil is used as a liniment for rheumatism and lumbago.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** Green  
**Flower aroma:** No  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Black  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Drupe
Cleistanthus collinus
PHYLANTHACEAE

Names: Oduvan (T)/ Garari (H)

Description: A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: This tree enjoys the full sun. It is found on hillocks, and occasionally on the plains. It is rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

Landscape information: It is a good component in ecological landscaping. Listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red list.

Propagation: Let fruits open in seed, soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds. GT: 1 month. GR: Medium.

Uses: This plant is poisonous and should not be ingested.

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: 3 to 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: Green
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit colour: Brown/Rusty
Fruit size: 3 to 5 cm
Fruit type: Capsule

Ziziphus jujuba
RHAMNACEAE

Names: Indian Jujube (C)/ Ilandhai (T)/ Ber (H)

Description: A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and with thorns found on young growth. Also known as Ziziphus mauritiana.

Habit: This plant is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

Landscape information: It attracts bees, is drought tolerant, and in the right conditions will maintain an evergreen foliage.

Propagation: Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 1-2 months. GR: High.

Uses: The fruit is eaten raw or pickled. The wood is used for making rafters.

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Recurved
Leaf length: 3 to 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: Green
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit colour: Red
Fruit size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit type: Drupe
**Ziziphus xylopyrus**

**Rhamnaceae**

**Names:** Woody fruit jujube (C)/ Kottai Ilandhai (T)/ Kath Ber (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and with thorns found on young growth.

**Habit:** This plant is generally found in disturbed areas, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It is a good component in biodiversity landscaping.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 1 month. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The fruits are edible, and it is reported to treat diabetes, digestive and urinary disorders. The wood is used for charcoal and fuel.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Recurved
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Green
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Grey
- **Fruit size:** More than 5 cm
- **Fruit type:** Drupe

**Casearia tomentosa**

**Salicaceae**

**Names:** Toothed leaf chilla (C)/ Naai Azhinjil (T)/ Chilla (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is generally found in disturbed areas, and it is rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** This tree can be used for variety in a landscape.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in trays. GT: 2 weeks. GR: High.

**Uses:** The fruit can be used as a fish poison. The bark has been used as an external treatment for dropsy. The wood is good for making combs.

- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Green
- **Flower aroma:** No
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Grey
- **Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit type:** Capsule
**Antidesma ghaesembilla**  
*PHYLLANTHACEAE*

**Names:** Black currant tree (C)/Pulicha Maram (T)/Januprulisaru (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun, it is found in disturbed areas, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It attracts birds and is drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds. Likes full sun to grow once established.

**GT:** 60-90 days. **GR:** Medium.

**Uses:** The fruit is used as a purgative, while the bark has been used as an astringent and as a tonic.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** Green  
**Flower aroma:** No  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Purple/Blue  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Breynia retusa**  
*PHYLLANTHACEAE*

**Names:** Cup saucer plant (C)/Manippullandhi (T)/Bahupraja (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** A shrub found mainly in disturbed areas, it grows in the full sun, disappearing if the canopy closes.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant and attracts butterflies.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. **GT:** 1-2 months. **GR:** Medium.

**Uses:** The bark is made into a paste and used as a liniment for rheumatism.

**Leaf Type:** Simple  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Leaf width:** 0.5 to 1.5 cm  
**Flower colour:** Green  
**Flower aroma:** No  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Red  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Capsule
**Dodonaea viscosa**
SAPINDACEAE

**Names:** Hop bush (C)/ Viraali (T)/ Sanatta (H)/ Psychic awakening in matter (M)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** A shrub found mainly in disturbed areas, it grows in full sun, and disappears if the canopy closes.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. Best to use fresh seeds. GT: 30 days. GR: Low.

**Uses:** The leaf paste can be applied on cuts and wounds. The wood is extremely tough and durable, and can be used for fencing or fire wood.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
**Thorn:** Absent
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** Green
**Flower aroma:** No
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
**Fruit type:** Capsule

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**Cadaba fruticosa**
CAPPARACEAE

**Names:** Indian cadaba (C)/ Vizhudhi (T)/ Dabi (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** A shrub found mainly in disturbed areas, it grows in the full sun, becoming a straggler once the canopy closes.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant and attracts butterflies.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds. Likes sun after transplanting. Can be done by cuttings. GT: 30-60 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The leaves are reported as a traditional medicine for eczema, intestinal worms, and body pain, while the bark can be used as a nervine tonic.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
**Thorn:** Absent
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** Yellow
**Flower aroma:** Yes
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
**Fruit colour:** Red
**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm
**Fruit type:** Berry
**Grewia flavescens**
**MALVACEAE**

**Names:** Donkey berry (C)/Sembarandai (T)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub enjoys the full sun, it is found in disturbed areas, and is rarely found in mature evergreen stands. It is also found along riverbanks.

**Landscape information:** It has beautiful flowers, attracts birds, is fast growing, and is good for creating an early canopy.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 1 month. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The fruit is edible, and the roots have been used to treat menstrual problems. The branches are used for making baskets.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
**Thorn:** Absent
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** Yellow
**Flower aroma:** Yes
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Ochna obtusata**
**OCHNACEAE**

**Names:** Mickey mouse bush (C)/Silandi (T)/Ramdhun champa (H)/Greed for money (M)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub is found in the open, or as a component of the understory in a mature forest.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant and attracts butterflies.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 24 hours, then sow in beds or trays.

**GT:** 10-14 days. **GR:** High.

**Uses:** A decoction made from the bark has been used for dysentery, and the stem bark as a paste is applied on boils.

**Leaf Type:** Simple
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
**Thorn:** Absent
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
**Flower colour:** Yellow
**Flower aroma:** No
**Flower size:** 3 to 5 cm
**Fruit colour:** Black
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
**Fruit type:** Drupe
**Helicteres isora**

**MALVACEAE**

**Names:** East Indian screw tree (C)/ Valampuri (T)/ Marorphali (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub enjoys the full sun. It is generally found in disturbed areas, and it is rarely found in mature forest stands.

**Landscape information:** It has beautiful flowers, attracts butterflies, is fast growing, and is good for creating an early canopy.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 60-90 days. GR: Very Low.

**Uses:** A decoction made from the bark has been used for treating diarrhea and dysentery.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Orange

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Seedpod

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**Cordia monoica**

**BORAGINACEAE**

**Names:** Pasakkaimaram (T)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant enjoys the full sun. It is generally found on the hillocks, or in mixed forest stands.

**Landscape information:** It is slow growing and drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in beds. GT: 1 month. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** A decoction made from the bark has been used as a treatment for dropsy.

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** White

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Yellow

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe
Salacia chinensis
CELASTRACEAE

Names: Chinese salacia (C)/ Pon Korandi (T)

Description: A straggler, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.
Habit: This plant will stand alone as a shrub in disturbed areas, or it will grow up into the canopy.
Landscape information: It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.
Propagation: Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays.
GT: 30 days. GR: High.

Uses: The root bark has been used for treating gonorrhea and rheumatism, as well as stimulating circulation.

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Arrangement: Whorled
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: More than 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: Green
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit colour: Red
Fruit size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit type: Berry

Gyrocarpus americanus
HERNANDIACEAE

Names: Helicopter tree (C)/ Vellai Thanakku (T)

Description: A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.
Habit: This tree enjoys the full sun, and it is generally found in exposed locations on the hillocks.
Landscape information: This is an interesting tree to include in a landscape as it has unique characteristics.
Propagation: Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays.
GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

Uses: The wood is used for making toys, light furniture, boxes, trays and floats. It has traditionally been used for dug-out canoes.

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Arrangement: Spiral
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: More than 5 cm
Leaf width: More than 5 cm
Flower colour: Green
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit colour: Brown/Rusty
Fruit size: 3 to 5 cm
Fruit type: Drupe
**Bauhinia racemosa**  
**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Bidi leaf tree (C)/ Aathi (T)/ Katmauli (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** Mature specimens are more often found in forest remnants that are less disturbed, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds, scratch and soak for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags. GT: 10 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** This plant has been used as a treatment for bacterial and fungal infections, asthma and diabetes. The leaves are used for making bidi.

**Leaf Type:** Lobed  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** No  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty  
**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Seedpod

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**Sterculia urens**  
**MALVACEAE**

**Names:** Gum Karaya (C)/ Senthanukku (T)/ Kulu (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless. Also known as *Firmiana simplex*.

**Habit:** This plant enjoys the full sun where it is found on hillocks in exposed locations.

**Landscape information:** It is a beautiful, slow growing tree.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Use gloves when cleaning. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The roasted seeds are edible and are called java olives.

**Leaf Type:** Lobed  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** Green  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty  
**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Capsule
**Cochlospermum religiosum**

**BIXACEAE**

**Names:** Yellow silk cotton (C)/ Kongilavam (T)/ Galgal (H)/ Success in Supramental work (M)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun, and it is found on exposed hillocks.

**Landscape information:** This is an interesting tree to include in a landscape as it has beautiful yellow flowers and unique characteristics.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in beds. Don’t overwater until first leaves appear.

Seedling aftercare required. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The gum is sweetish. The wood has timber value, and the fibre is used for pillows.

**Leaf Type:** Lobed

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Capsule

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**Givotia moluccana**

**EUPHORBIAEAE**

**Names:** White catamaran tree (C)/ Kottai Thanakku (T)

**Description:** A large spreading tree over 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is found on hillocks, either in exposed locations, or as a part of a mixed forest stand.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Crack and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The leaf extract has been used as a remedy for liver ailments. The seed oil is used as a lubricant for fine machinery.

**Leaf Type:** Lobed

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Grey

**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe
**Bauhinia tomentosa**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Yellow bauhinia (C)/ Iruvaatchi (T)/ Kachnal (H)/ Gold (M)

**Description:** A shrub or small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub is found mainly in disturbed areas, it grows in full sun, disappearing if the canopy closes.

**Landscape information:** It has beautiful flowers, is fast growing, and is good for creating an early canopy.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds, scratch and soak for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags.

GT: 30-60 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** The leaves are used to make pickles. The buds and flowers have been used to treat dysentery, and the bark has been used for skin problems.

Leaf Type: Lobed
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: 3 to 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: Yellow
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: More than 5 cm
Fruit colour: Brown/Rusty
Fruit size: More than 5 cm
Fruit type: Seedpod

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**Firmiana colorata**

**MALVACEAE**

**Names:** Scarlet sterculia (C)/ Malapparuthi (T)/ Bodula (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun where it is found on hillocks in exposed locations.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. High mortality rate post germination. Care after transplanting.

GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The bark yields a fiber that can be used to make ropes. A bark decoction has been used as a treatment for urine infections and stomach pain.

Leaf Type: Lobed
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: More than 5 cm
Leaf width: More than 5 cm
Flower colour: Orange
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit colour: Brown/Rusty
Fruit size: 3 to 5 cm
Fruit type: Seedpod
**Stereospermum tetragonum**  
**BIGNONIACEAE**

**Names:** Trumpet flower (C)/ Pooppadiri (T)/ Patiri (H)

**Description:** A tall tree over 10 meters, it is brevi-deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless. Also known as *Stereospermum personatum*.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is found on hillocks, and rarely on the plains in mature forest stands.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, it attracts bees, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds with a light soil covering. Don't overwater beds. Needs sun after transplanting. GT: 10-14 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The wood is used for making furniture.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** Yellow  
**Flower aroma:** No  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty  
**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Capsule

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**Dolichandrone falcata**  
**BIGNONIACEAE**

**Names:** Medhshingi (C)/ Kadalathi (T)/ Hawar (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is found in areas of disturbance, and rarely found in mature forest stands.

**Landscape information:** It is slow growing and drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds with a light soil covering. Don't overwater beds. Requires sun once transplanted. GT: 10-14 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** A leaf paste applied externally has been used to treat headaches and swollen glands.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty  
**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Capsule
**Lepisanthes tetraphylla**  
*SAPINDACEAE*

**Names:** Gugamathi (T)/ Kurpa (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** Mature specimens are often found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has evergreen foliage, and is slow growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. Very slow growth in nursery. GT: 30-60 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** This tree is considered sacred, and the fruits are edible. The wood is used for furniture and carving.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Yellow  
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Glycosmis mauritiana**  
*RUTACEAE*

**Names:** Orange berry (C)/ Konji (T)/ Ban neem (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub is normally found in the understory of the forest, and only if the canopy has been recently removed will it be found in the open sun.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 10-14 days. GR: Very High.

**Uses:** The fruits are edible, and the plant has been used to treat arthritis, urinary infection, cough, bronchitis, asthma and diarrhea.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Pink  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Berry
**Murraya paniculata**

**RUTACEAE**

*Names:* Queen of the night (C)/ Vengarai (T)/ Kamini (H)/ Peace in the vital (M)

*Description:* A shrub, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

*Habit:* This shrub is normally found in the understory of the forest, and only if the canopy has been recently removed will it be found in the open sun.

*Landscape information:* It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, is relatively fast growing, and can be planted as a hedge. This shrub attracts birds, butterflies, and bees.

*Propagation:* Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 7-10 days. GR: High.

*Uses:* The root made into a paste has been used as a rub for body pain. The wood makes good tool handles.

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**Aglaia elaeagoidea**

**MELIACEAE**

*Names:* Droopy leaf tree (C)/ Sokkala (T)/ Priyangu (H)/ Mental suggestion of organisation (M)

*Description:* A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

*Habit:* Mature specimens are often found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

*Landscape information:* It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

*Propagation:* Clean and sow directly in bags or beds. GT: 30 days. GR: High.

*Uses:* The fruits have been used in the treatment of inflammation and leprosy. The bright hard red wood is used for timber.

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*Leaf Type:* Pinnate

*Leaf Arrangement:* Alternate

*Thorn:* Absent

*Leaf length:* 3 to 5 cm

*Leaf width:* 1 to 3 cm

*Flower colour:* White/Cream

*Flower aroma:* Yes

*Flower size:* Less than 1 cm

*Fruit colour:* Red

*Fruit size:* Less than 1 cm

*Fruit type:* Berry
Azadirachta indica
MELIACEAE

Names: Neem (C)/ Vembu (T)/ Spiritual atmosphere (M)

Description: A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: This tree is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

Landscape information: It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

Propagation: Clean and sow directly in bags. GT: 10 days. GR: High.

Uses: Neem has a long history of use in Ayurvedic and Siddha medicine, particularly for treating skin conditions. It is also a valuable timber tree.

Leaf Type: Pinnate
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: More than 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: White/Cream
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit colour: Yellow
Fruit size: 1 to 3 cm
Fruit type: Drupe

Commiphora caudata
BURSERACEAE

Names: Green commiphora (C)/ Pachai Kiluvai (T)/ Ikkata (H)

Description: A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: This tree enjoys the full sun. It is generally found in exposed locations on hillocks, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

Landscape information: This small tree is good as a feature in the garden.

Propagation: Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in beds. GT: 1-2 months. GR: Medium.

Uses: The leaf paste has been applied on cracked lips and foot corns. The gum mixed with water has been used to treat mouth ulcers, rheumatoid arthritis, and with wound healing.

Leaf Type: Pinnate
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Straight
Leaf length: 3 to 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: White/Cream
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit colour: Yellow
Fruit size: 1 to 3 cm
Fruit type: Drupe
**Garuga pinnata**

**BURSERACEAE**

**Names:** Karuvelum (T)/ Kharpat (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun where it is generally found on the hillocks in mixed forest areas.

**Landscape information:** This tree is a good component in biodiversity landscaping.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or tray. High mortality rate post germination. Care after transplanting.

**GT:** 30 days. **GR:** Medium.

**Uses:** The raw fruits are edible and can be used to make pickles. The leaf juice mixed with honey has been used to treat asthma.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Yellow

**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Acacia chundra**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Cutch tree (C)/ Karungali (T)/ Katha (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and with thorns found on young growth.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is generally found in disturbed areas, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It is fast growing and is good for fencing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds.

**GT:** 5-10 days. **GR:** High.

**Uses:** The wood is used for making beams, posts, and for agricultural implements.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** Less than 1 cm

**Leaf width:** Less than 0.5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Seedpod
**Acacia leucophloea**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** White bark acacia (C)/ Vel Velan (T)/ Reonja (H)/ Knowledge of details (M)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and with thorns found on young growth.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is generally found in disturbed areas, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It is good as a live fence.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. GT: 5-10 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** The bark yields a fiber that can be used for cordage and fishing nets. The wood is used for indoor construction and flooring, and is very suitable for making charcoal.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** Less than 1 cm

**Leaf width:** Less than 0.5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Green

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Seedpod

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**Acacia nilotica**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Gum arabic (C)/ Karuvel (T)/ Babool (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and with thorns found on young growth.

**Habit:** A naturalized exotic that is found mainly near water bodies. It has been planted in some forest areas, and is also found growing wild in other locations.

**Landscape information:** It is a good component in ecological landscaping.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. GT: 5-10 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** The branchlets are used as a toothbrush, and a decoction of the fruit has been used to help with fever. The seeds have been used to treat malaria, diabetes and hypertension.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** Less than 1 cm

**Leaf width:** Less than 0.5 cm

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Grey

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Seedpod
**Albizia amara**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Oil cake tree (C)/ Usilai (T)/ Krishna siris (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun, and it can be found in both disturbed and mature forest stands.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds.

**GT:** 5-10 days. **GR:** Very High.

**Uses:** The bark has been used for tooth infection and relieving pain. The leaf paste can be applied for dandruff, lice, skin diseases and poisonous bites. The wood is used for construction.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** Less than 1 cm  
**Leaf width:** Less than 0.5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty  
**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Seedpod

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**Albizia lebbeck**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Siris tree (C)/ Vaagai (T)/ Saras (H)/ Integral Wisdom (M)

**Description:** A large spreading tree over 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** It has beautiful flowers, is fast growing, and is good for creating an early canopy.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. Aftercare required after transplanting seedlings. **GT:** 5-10 days. **GR:** High.

**Uses:** The wood is used as planks for carts.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Yellow  
**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Seedpod
**Albizia odoratissima**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Black siris (C)/ Karuvaagai (T)/ Kala siris (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is generally found on the hillocks, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It is fast growing, and is good for creating an early canopy.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds.

**Uses:** The leaves have been used as a remedy for cough, the bark for ulcers and skin diseases.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Leaf width:** 0.5 to 1.5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Black  
**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Seedpod

**Dalbergia lanceolaria subsp. paniculata**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Erigai (T)/ Passi (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is generally found in disturbed areas, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It has beautiful flowers, is fast growing, and is good for creating an early canopy.

**Propagation:** Soak pods in water for 12 hours, then sow in beds with a light soil covering. Transplant early to minimize high mortality in beds.

**GT:** 5-10 days. **GR:** High.

**Uses:** The wood is used to make musical instruments, the small branches are used for fuel, and the leaves are good fodder for cattle.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty  
**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm  
**Fruit type:** Seedpod
**Dalbergia latifolia**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Rosewood (C)/ Nookkam (T)/ Kala-shisham (H)

**Description:** A tall tree over 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is generally found on the hillocks, and occasionally it is found on the plains.

**Landscape information:** This tree is slow growing and drought tolerant. Listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red list.

**Propagation:** Soak pods in water for 12 hours, then sow in beds with light soil covering. Transplant early to minimize high mortality in beds.

**Uses:** This plant has been used in the treatment of diarrhea, dysentery and leprosy. The wood is mainly used for making furniture.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Seedpod

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**Chloroxylon swietenia**

**RUTACEAE**

**Names:** Satin wood (C)/ Ven Porasu (T)/ Bhirra (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is generally found on the red soils. It is often cut for timber, and is rarely found as mature trees.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant and fast growing. Listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red list.

**Propagation:** Clean and sow seeds directly in beds. Seedling aftercare required.

**GT:** 10-14 days. **GR:** Medium.

**Uses:** The leaves have been applied on wounds and for rheumatism. The wood is used for posts and utensils.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** 1 to 3 cm

**Leaf width:** 0.5 to 1.5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Capsule
**Limonia acidissima**
RUTACEAE

**Names:** Wood apple (C)/ Vila (T)/ Kaith (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with a rough stem, and with thorns found on young growth.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is often found on tank bunds or in hedgerows, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It is a beautiful, slow growing tree.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Sprinkle with wood ash to stop caterpillars. Sun required after transplanting.

**GT:** 10-14 days. **GR:** Medium.

**Uses:** The fruit and young leaves are edible. It is also used as a root stock for citrus species.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** 1 to 3 cm

**Leaf width:** 0.5 to 1.5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Grey

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Berry

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**Sapindus emarginatus**
SAPINDACEAE

**Names:** Soap nut (C)/ Reetha (T)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant enjoys the full sun. It is generally found in disturbed areas, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It is slow growing and drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays.

**GT:** 14-30 days. **GR:** High.

**Uses:** The dried fruits are used in shampoo and as a natural washing agent.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe
**Clausena dentata**  
**RUTACEAE**

**Names:** Horsewood (C)/ Kaattu Karuveppilai (T)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub can be found in the open, or as a component of the understory in a mature forest.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, and is a butterfly attractor.

**Propagation:** Clean and sow seeds directly in beds. Seedling aftercare required.

**GT:** 10-14 days. **GR:** Medium.

**Uses:** The fruit is edible, and the crushed leaves have been used to treat wounds, mouth infections, and general body pains.

- **Leaf Type:** Pinnate
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** White
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Berry

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**Pongamia pinnata**  
**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Pungan (T)/ Karanj (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is found mainly near rivers or water bodies, and it is extensively planted in afforestation programs.

**Landscape information:** It is a coastal species, is relatively fast growing, and is drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags. **GT:** 7-10 days. **GR:** High.

**Uses:** A decoction made from the leaves has been used to treat diarrhea. It is cultivated for its oil which is used as a fuel and as an insect repellent.

- **Leaf Type:** Pinnate
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Pink
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Seedpod
Sterculia foetida
MALVACEAE

Names: Java olive (C)/ Kudiraippi-dukkan (T)/ Jangli badam (H)

Description: A tall tree over 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: This tree enjoys the full sun. It is found on hillocks between rock crevices, and it is rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

Landscape information: This tall, fast growing and handsome tree is good for creating an early canopy, however the flowers emit a very unpleasant odor.

Propagation: Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 30 days. GR: High.

Uses: The seeds are edible after toasting. The timber is used to make furniture.

Leaf Type: Pinnate
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: More than 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: Red
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: 1 to 3 cm
Fruit colour: Brown/Rusty
Fruit size: More than 5 cm
Fruit type: Capsule

Lannea coromandelica
ANACARDIACEAE

Names: Indian ash tree (C)/ Odiyan (T)/ Mohin (H)

Description: A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: This tree is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

Landscape information: This tree is fast growing, and is good for creating an early canopy.

Propagation: Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Can propagate from cuttings.

GT: 1 month. GR: Medium.

Uses: A decoction made from the bark has been used to treat stomach ache and dysentery. The wood has termite resistant properties.

Leaf Type: Pinnate
Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Thorn: Absent
Leaf length: More than 5 cm
Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm
Flower colour: Yellow
Flower aroma: Yes
Flower size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit colour: Red
Fruit size: Less than 1 cm
Fruit type: Drupe
**Spondias pinnata**

**ANACARDIACEAE**

**Names:** Jackal mango (C)/ Pulimaa (T)/ Ambara (H)

**Description:** A large spreading tree over 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant enjoys the full sun, where it is usually found on the hillocks of disturbed areas. It is rarely found in mature evergreen stands.

**Landscape information:** It can be used for variety in a landscape planting.

**Propagation:** Leave seeds in pile, in damp corner. Once germinated plant out in bags.

GT: 1 year. GR: Low.

**Uses:** A paste of the ground bark has been used to treat rheumatism. The leaf juice has been used as a treatment for earache.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Black

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Cassia fistula**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Indian Laburnum (C)/ Sarakkondrai (T)/ Amaltas (H)/ Imagination (M)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** This tree has beautiful flowers, and is good for park areas.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds, scratch and soak for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags. Sprinkle with wood ash to stop caterpillars.

GT: 10 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The leaf juice has been used for skin diseases and bone fracture.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 3 to 5 cm

**Fruit colour:** Black

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Seedpod
**Pterocarpus marsupium**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Indian kino tree (C)/ Vengai (T)/ Vijayasara (H)

**Description:** A tall tree over 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is generally found on hillocks in mixed forests, and rarely found in mature evergreen stands on the plains.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing. Listed as near threatened on the IUCN Red list.

**Propagation:** Cut wings and soak for 12 hours, then keep moist in a clay pot. Once germinated sow the seed directly in bags. GT: 14-30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** A decoction made from the wood has been used for diabetes. The wood is a valuable timber.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Seedpod

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**Pterocarpus santalinus**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Red sanders (C)/ Santhana (T)/ Lalchandan (H)

**Description:** A tall tree over 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant enjoys the full sun where it is found in exposed locations on the hillocks.

**Landscape information:** It is a timber tree with a beautiful form. Listed as near threatened on the IUCN Red list.

**Propagation:** Cut wings and soak for 12 hours, then keep moist in a clay pot. Once germinated sow the seed directly in bags. GT: 14-30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** A paste made from the wood has been used to treat dysentery, diabetes and immune systems disorders.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Seedpod
**Tamarindus indica**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Tamarind (C)/ Puliyan (T)/ Imli (H)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** It is slow growing and drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 24 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Use seeds from ripe fruits.

**Uses:** It is cultivated for its edible seed pods. Bark paste has been applied externally for eczema.

- **Leaf Type:** Pinnate
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Leaf width:** 0.5 to 1.5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Yellow
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
- **Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit type:** Seedpod

**Ormocarpum cochinchinense**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** South Indian caterpillar bush (C) / Elumbotti (T)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub is found mainly in disturbed areas, it grows in the full sun, and disappears if the canopy closes.

**Landscape information:**

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. GT: 5-10 days. GR: High.

**Uses:** The leaves are considered to be a general tonic.

- **Leaf Type:** Pinnate
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Leaf width:** 0.5 to 1.5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Yellow
- **Flower aroma:** No
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
- **Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm
- **Fruit type:** Seedpod
**Senna auriculata**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Tanner’s cassia (C)/ Aavarai (T)/ Tarwar (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless. **Habit:** A shrub found mainly in disturbed areas, it grows in full sun, disappearing if the canopy closes. **Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant and attracts butterflies. **Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Don't transplant too late. Sprinkle with wood ash to stop caterpillars. Sun required after transplanting.

GT: 5-10 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The flowers are edible, and the plant has been used for skin diseases, fever and constipation.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Absent

**Leaf length:** 1 to 3 cm

**Leaf width:** 0.5 to 1.5 cm

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 3 to 5 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Seedpod

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**Dichrostachys cinerea**

**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Sickle bush (C)/ Vidatheri (T)/ Kheri (H)

**Description:** A small tree to 6 meters, it is deciduous, with rough bark, and with thorns found on young growth. **Habit:** This plant is found mainly in disturbed areas, it grows in the full sun, disappearing if the canopy closes. **Landscape information:** It is fast growing with beautiful flowers, and is good for creating an early canopy. **Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags. GT: 5-10 days. GR: Very High.

**Uses:** The leaves have been used as a treatment for liver and eye diseases, and the bark has been used for headache and toothache.

**Leaf Type:** Pinnate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** Less than 1 cm

**Leaf width:** Less than 0.5 cm

**Flower colour:** Pink and yellow

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty

**Fruit size:** 3 to 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Seedpod
**Vitex altissima**  
**LAMIACEAE**

**Names:** Peacock foot tree (C)/Mayiladi (T)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless. **Habit:** This tree enjoys the full sun. It is mostly found in disturbed areas, and is rarely found in mature evergreen stands. **Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing. **Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Can propagate from cuttings. **Uses:** The wood is a fine timber, and is water resistant. The bark has been used as a treatment for rheumatic swellings.

- **Leaf Type:** Trifoliate
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Blue
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** Less than 1 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Purple/Blue
- **Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Vitex leucoxylon**  
**LAMIACEAE**

**Names:** White wood chaste tree (C)/Neer Nochil (T)/Nirgundi (H)

**Description:** A tall tree over 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless. **Habit:** This tree is normally found next to rivers in forest areas, however it is also present on tank bunds and along canyons. **Landscape information:** It is fast growing, and is good for creating an early canopy. **Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. **Uses:** The leaf smoke has been used to treat headaches and catarrh. This is a good timber tree.

- **Leaf Type:** Trifoliate
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** White/Cream
- **Flower aroma:** Yes
- **Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Black
- **Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm
- **Fruit type:** Drupe
**Vitex negundo**

**VERBENACEAE**

**Names:** Chaste tree (C)/ Nochil (T)/ Sindvar (H)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This plant is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** It has lovely foliage, is fast growing, and is good for fencing.

**Propagation:** Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in beds or trays. Can propagate from cuttings.

**GT:** 1-2 months. **GR:** Medium.

**Uses:** The leaf smoke is used as an insect repellent. The plant is used for fencing, and the stem is used for making baskets.

**Leaf Type:** Trifoliate  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** Violet/Purple  
**Flower aroma:** Yes  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Black  
**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Walsura trifoliolata**

**MELIACEAE**

**Names:** Three-leaf walsura (C)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** Mature specimens are often found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, has beautiful foliage, and is relatively fast growing.

**Propagation:** Clean and sow seeds directly in bags or beds.

**GT:** 30 days. **GR:** High.

**Uses:** A decoction made from the bark has been used to treat skin diseases.

**Leaf Type:** Trifoliate  
**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
**Thorn:** Absent  
**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm  
**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm  
**Flower colour:** White/Cream  
**Flower aroma:** No  
**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm  
**Fruit colour:** Yellow  
**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm  
**Fruit type:** Drupe
Crateva adansonii subsp. odor

CAPPARACEAE

Names: Garlic pear tree (C)/ Maavilingam (T)/ Barna (H)/ Work of the enlightened mind (M)

Description: A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: This tree enjoys the full sun. It is found in disturbed areas, and as large trees in mature evergreen stands.

Landscape information: It has beautiful flowers, and is good for park areas.

Propagation: Clean seeds and soak for 12 hours, then sow in beds. Sprinkle with wood ash to stop caterpillars. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

Uses: The wood is used for making toys.

Leaf Type: Trifoliate

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Thorn: Absent

Leaf length: More than 5 cm

Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm

Flower colour: White/Cream

Flower aroma: No

Flower size: 1 to 3 cm

Fruit colour: Red

Fruit size: 3 to 5 cm

Fruit type: Berry

Allophylus cobbe

SAPINDACEAE

Names: Mangrove tit berry (C)/ Siruvalli (T)/ Tippani (H)

Description: A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

Habit: This shrub is normally found in the understory, and only if the canopy is recently removed is it found in the open sun. It is also found on sandy beaches and in coastal areas.

Landscape information: It is drought tolerant and attracts butterflies.

Propagation: Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags or beds. Can propagate from cuttings. GT: 30 days. GR: Medium.

Uses: A decoction made from the roots has been used to treat diarrhea. The wood is used for small construction projects, firewood, boats and for fishing traps.

Leaf Type: Trifoliate

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Thorn: Absent

Leaf length: More than 5 cm

Leaf width: 1.5 to 5 cm

Flower colour: White/Cream

Flower aroma: No

Flower size: Less than 1 cm

Fruit colour: Red

Fruit size: Less than 1 cm

Fruit type: Berry
**Butea monosperma**
**FABACEAE**

**Names:** Flame of the forest (C)/Murukkan (T)/ Dhak (H)/ Beginning of the Supramental realisation (M)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This tree is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** It has beautiful flowers, and can be used as a garden feature.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow directly in bags. Insert half seed into bags. GT: 10 days. GR: Very High.

**Uses:** The leaves pieced together are used as plates.

- **Leaf Type:** Trifoliate
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** More than 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Red
- **Flower aroma:** No
- **Flower size:** More than 5 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Brown/Rusty
- **Fruit size:** More than 5 cm
- **Fruit type:** Seedpod

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**Cadaba trifoliata**
**CAPPARACEAE**

**Names:** Three-leaf cadaba (C)/Vizhudhi (T)

**Description:** A shrub, it is deciduous, with smooth bark, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This shrub is normally found in the understory of the forest, and only if the canopy has been recently removed will it be found in the open sun.

**Landscape information:** It is drought tolerant, and is a good plant in semi-shade.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 12 hours, then sow in beds. Likes sun after transplanting. Can be propagated by cuttings.

- **Leaf Type:** Trifoliate
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Thorn:** Absent
- **Leaf length:** More than 5 cm
- **Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm
- **Flower colour:** Yellow
- **Flower aroma:** No
- **Flower size:** More than 5 cm
- **Fruit colour:** Red
- **Fruit size:** More than 5 cm
- **Fruit type:** Berry
**Pleiospermium alatum**

**RUTACEAE**

**Names:** Kurundhu Mul Thazhai (T)

**Description:** A medium sized tree to 10 meters, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and with thorns found on young growth.

**Habit:** Mature specimens are often found in undisturbed forest remnants, however it can also be found in degraded areas in a modified form.

**Landscape information:** This is a beautiful, slow growing tree.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 6 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 21-30 days. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The leaf and bark have been used as a treatment for rheumatic pains. The wood has timber value.

**Leaf Type:** Trifoliate

**Leaf Arrangement:** Spiral

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** 3 to 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** White/Cream

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit colour:** Green

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Berry

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**Borassus flabellifer**

**ARECACEAE**

**Names:** Palmyra (C)/ Panai (T)/ Taad (H)

**Description:** A palm, it is evergreen, with a rough stem, and it is thornless.

**Habit:** This palm is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** This is a beautiful, slow growing palm.

**Propagation:** Directly sow seeds in situ, no preparation required. GT: 1 year. GR: .

**Uses:** The leaves are used for thatching, the fruits are edible, and the wood is used for house scaffolding.

**Leaf Type:** Palm leaf

**Leaf Arrangement:** Whorled

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** More than 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Green

**Flower aroma:** No

**Flower size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit colour:** Black

**Fruit size:** More than 5 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe
**Phoenix pusilla**
ARECACEAE

**Names:** Ceylon date palm (C)/ Siru Echan (T)/ Palavat (H)

**Description:** A palm, it is evergreen, with a rough stem, and with thorns found on young growth.

**Habit:** This palm is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** The fruits attract birds and animals.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 6 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 1-2 months. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The fresh juice is cooling and laxative.

**Leaf Type:** Palm frond

**Leaf Arrangement:** Whorled

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 0.5 to 1.5 cm

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Black

**Fruit size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe

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**Phoenix sylvestris**
ARECACEAE

**Names:** Wild date palm (C)/ Pericham (T)/ Khajur (H)

**Description:** A palm, it is evergreen, with rough bark, and with thorns found on young growth.

**Habit:** This palm is occasionally found in forest areas, however it is more usually found by the side of the road, on tank bunds, or in agricultural boundaries.

**Landscape information:** This is a beautiful, slow growing palm.

**Propagation:** Clean and soak seeds for 6 hours, then sow in beds or trays. GT: 1-2 months. GR: Medium.

**Uses:** The ripe fruit is edible, and the juice from the tender leaves has been given as a treatment for diarrhea. The trunk is used in construction, especially for posts.

**Leaf Type:** Palm frond

**Leaf Arrangement:** Whorled

**Thorn:** Straight

**Leaf length:** More than 5 cm

**Leaf width:** 1.5 to 5 cm

**Flower colour:** Yellow

**Flower aroma:** Yes

**Flower size:** Less than 1 cm

**Fruit colour:** Orange

**Fruit size:** 1 to 3 cm

**Fruit type:** Drupe
The aim of this book is to help the reader discover the native trees and shrubs of the Auroville region. Of the 160 plants covered by the book many are part of the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest, which is the original vegetation of the Coromandel coast from Visakhapatnam to Point Calimere. Other plants included are also native, but they originate from further inland. All of these species can be found in the Auroville forests and parks. By helping people to name and recognize the native trees around us we hope to encourage them to protect and cherish this precious resource that is under threat.