

## Flowering Trees



*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss. (English: Margosa or Neem tree; Hindi: Neem) of Meliaceae a large evergreen tree with spreading crown and brownish bark is either planted or self-sown. Leaves are compound and the leaflets are somewhat oblique with toothed margin. Flowers are small and white and borne on branched inflorescence. Fruit is about .5in long, single-seeded, green and yellowish when ripe. Seed is enclosed in a hard shell and outer pulp and skin.

Almost every part of the tree is of medicinal value. The curative capabilities range from bad teeth, skin disorders, ulcers to malaria. The seeds, bark and leaves contain compounds called limonoids with proven antiseptic, antiviral, antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, anti-ulcer and anti-fungal uses. Also, inexpensive, non-toxic pesticides and insect repellents are manufactured from seed oil and biomass of different parts of this tree. Neem tree yields termite resistant timber for carpentry. The tree is sacred to Hindus.