



Flowering Trees

Sterculia foetida L. (INDIAN ALMOND, JAVA OLIVE) of Sterculiaceae is a tall deciduous tree reaching a height of 20 m with faintly ridged grey bark. The bole reaches up to 2m in girth. Branches are reddish, usually horizontal. Leaves are large, palmately compound (5–7 leaflets) and clustered at the branch ends. Flowers are usually in much-branched axillary inflorescence. The crimson and yellow flowers (2 cm across) have an offensive odour. The pendant fruit consists of one to five rounded, scarlet, woody pods, each about 8 cm. in diameter and gaping open along one line when ripe.

Seeds are 10–15, black or bluish-black, oblong and edible, eaten raw or roasted.