

CHANDIGARH

State Tree: Aam.

Botanical Name: *Mangifera indica* L.

Common Names: Mango (English); Aam (Hindi); Amra Chuta (Sanskrit).

Family: Anacardiaceae.



***Mangifera indica* L.**

Etymology: The generic name, **Mangifera** derived from a Tamil word Tamil, mankai, for the mango fruit and Latin word 'fero' means 'to bear' thereby symbolizing a plant bearing mango fruits; specific epithet '**indica**' refers to the Indian origin of the plant.

Description: Tree, growing up to 20 m tall, with spreading branches. Leaves alternate, usually crowded at branchlets end, ovate-lanceolate, cuneate at base, entire, undulate at margins, acuminate at apex,

10 - 20 × 4 - 6 cm, coriaceous, glabrous, shiny and dark green above. Inflorescence a panicle, pubescent; flowers polygamous, many. Calyx campanulate, 5-lobed. Petals 4 or 5, up to 5 mm long, ovate, cream-coloured. Stamens as many as petals, only one is fertile. Ovary 1-loculed; ovule 1. Drupes are obliquely oblong, up to 15 cm long, green turning yellow when ripe; mesocarp fleshy; endocarp hard and fibrous.

Flowering: January - March; **Fruiting:** April - July.

Distribution: It is native to Indian subcontinent; cultivated throughout the tropical regions of the world.

Economic Importance: Mango is the most delicious of Indian fruits. The ripened fruits are used in the preparation of fruit jams, toffee and fruit drinks; unripe fruits are also extensively used in making pickles and to keep as preserves. Wood is used for making furniture.

Traditional Uses: Mango leaves are hung on the door in several occasions in a Hindu home. It is considered sacred and also used in the 'Kalas Puja'. Dried branches are used during 'havan' in any Hindu ritual. Tree is worshipped to please Guru Brihaspati to obtain certain results.

Medicinal Uses: Fruit kernel has anthelmintic properties; unripe fruits are antidysenteric, astringent, laxative and also useful in intestinal haemorrhage. Mango juice is snuffed to stop nasal bleeding. Decoction of fruit is beneficial in diarrhoea and chronic dysentery.

Propagation: It can be propagated by seed germination or grafting.

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