

Economic Botany

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Teak(*Tectona grandis*)

Segun

- Family- Verbenaceae
- Imp. timber plant of the world.
- It is indigenous to India, Java, Sumatra and parts of Indonesia.
- Grows on variety of soils and require perfect drainage, free circulation of air., temp. Of 26-30 C and annual rainfall of 130-300 cm.
- Frost is harmful.

- For plantation seedlings are raised in nursery beds in Apr- May.
- When seedlings are about 30 cm high they are transplanted and they do not thrive in shade.
- A good quality timber is obtained from 50-80 yrs old trees.

Description

- Deciduous tree reaching upto a height of 30m and 2.5-4 m in girth.
- Branches are quadrangular, pubescent
- Leaves – opposite, simple, elliptical to obovate, 25-50 cm long and 20-40 cm wide.
- Flowers are arranged in large terminal panicles, bracteate, hermaphrodite, hypogynous and pentamerous.
- Fruit is hard, 4 lobed nut, 1 cm in diameter

Teak tree







Properties of Teak Wood

- Differentiated into sap wood(white/pale yellowish/greyish white) and heart wood(golden yellow to dull deep brown).
- Sap wood is susceptible to termites and rotting fungi, heart wood is immune to these pests.
- The wood is oily to touch as it has large quantity of resinous matter which fills up every pore of the wood and emits a characteristic odour of old leather.
- The wood is ring porous with distinct growth rings. The pores in the early wood are large and late wood pores are moderately large to small and solitary.
- Medullary rays- Moderately broad and widely spaced.

Uses of Teak

- Best timber for furniture, cabinet work, wagons, railway carriages, marine constructions
- Used for poles, beams roofs, doors, windows frames, flooring and other constructional work.
- Used for sound boards of musical instruments, different grades of plywood.

- Used for making laboratory bench-tops, suitable for casks and vats for shipping corrosive liquids, for storing vegetable oils as teak wood is resistant to chemicals.
- Wood waste of teak is used for chip boards, fibre boards and plastic boards.
- An oily product obtained by distillation of wood chips is used in the treatment of eczema.
- The flowers are used in bronchitis and urinary discharges.
- Root bark is used for colouring matting.

Uses of Teak



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Medicinal value

➤ *Bark of teak is bitter tonic but it is useful in fever.*

➤ *Useful in headache and stomach problem.*

➤ *Digestion may be enhanced.*



Perfume from teak plant



Suggested References

- Economic Botany by Albert F. Hill
- Economic Botany by BP Pandey
- Economic Botany by PC Das
- Economic Botany by SR Mishra
- Economic Botany by Singh, Pandey & Jain