

# Khirini

The Indian Khrini, also known as the Indian Date or Hiney Tree, is a tropical evergreen tree that is native to India. Its scientific name is Manilkara hexandra and it belongs to the family Sapotaceae. The tree is highly valued for its fruits, which are sweet and nutritious, and its wood, which is strong and durable.

Tree Characteristics	Description
Common Name	Khrini / Indian Date / Honey Tree
Scientific name	Manilkara hexandra
Maximum height	20-25 meters
Diameter of crown when mature	Broad and spreading
Diameter of tree trunk	Thick, up to 2 meters in diameter
Years it takes to grow	Around 8-10 years to start producing fruit
Economic benefit to farmers	Source of income through fruit and wood sales, improves soil fertility and prevents soil erosion in agroforestry systems

## Physical Characteristics

The Indian Khrini tree can grow up to a height of 30-40 meters and has a spreading canopy with a dense foliage. Its bark is smooth and greyish-brown in color. The leaves are elliptical and shiny green with a leathery texture. The tree produces small white flowers that are followed by the fruit, which is oval or round in shape and varies in size from 2-4 cm in diameter.

# Uses

The Indian Khrini tree has several uses, both for its fruit and wood. The fruit of the tree is sweet and nutritious, with a high sugar content. It is commonly used for making jams, jellies, and other preserves. The fruit is also used in traditional Indian medicine for its medicinal properties. It is believed to have several health benefits, including reducing inflammation, improving digestion, and boosting immunity.

The wood of the Indian Khrini tree is highly valued for its strength and durability. It is used for making furniture, agricultural tools, and other items. The wood is also used for construction purposes, particularly for making beams, columns, and rafters. The wood is resistant to termites and other wood-destroying insects, making it a preferred choice for construction in regions where these pests are common.

In addition to its fruit and wood, the Indian Khrini tree also has several other uses. The leaves of the tree are used for making traditional Indian medicines, while the bark is used for tanning leather. The tree is also an important part of traditional Indian culture and is considered sacred in several regions of the country. The tree is often planted in temples and other religious sites, where it is worshipped and revered.

Overall, the Indian Khrini tree is a valuable tree species that has several uses and benefits. Its fruit and wood are highly valued, while its leaves and bark also have important uses. The tree is an important part of Indian culture and tradition and is revered for its many benefits.



## **Ecological Role**

The Indian Khrini tree has an important ecological role as it provides habitat for several species of birds, animals, and insects. Its flowers attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies, while its fruits provide food for several species of birds and mammals.

## **Importance to Birds, Animals, and Insects**

The Indian Khrini tree is important to several species of birds, animals, and insects. The fruit of the tree is eaten by several species of birds and mammals such as monkeys, bats, and civets. The flowers of the tree attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies, which are important for the pollination of other plants in the ecosystem.

# **Soil and Climatic Requirements**

The Indian Khrini tree grows well in well-drained soils that are rich in organic matter. It prefers warm and humid conditions and can tolerate temperatures up to 45°C. The tree can also tolerate moderate drought conditions.

## **States in India where the tree is found naturally**

The Indian Khrini tree is found naturally in several states of India, including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Kerala.

## **Different Stages of Tree Growth**

The Indian Khrini tree goes through several stages of growth. It starts as a seedling and grows into a sapling, which is then transplanted into the field. The tree takes about 5-6 years to reach maturity and start bearing fruit. The fruiting season for the tree is from May to July.

## **Benefits to Farmers**

The Indian Khrini tree provides several benefits to farmers. Its fruit is highly nutritious and has a high market value. The wood of the tree is also highly valued for its strength and durability and is used for making furniture and other items. The tree also provides shade, which is important for crops in hot and dry regions. Additionally, the tree can be grown as part of agroforestry systems, which can help in soil conservation, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation.

# Conclusion

The Indian Khrini tree is a valuable tree species that has several ecological and economic benefits. Its fruits are highly nutritious and have a high market value, while its wood is highly valued for its strength and durability. The tree also plays an important ecological role by providing habitat for several species of birds, animals, and insects. It is a highly recommended tree species for agroforestry systems in India.