

# Tendu Tree

The Tendu tree, also known as *Diospyros melanoxylon*, is a native tree of India and is found abundantly throughout the country. It is known for its valuable and versatile uses, from its leaves that are used to make traditional Indian cigarettes (beedis) to its durable timber that is used in construction and furniture-making.

Tree Characteristics	Description
Common Name	Tendu tree (also known as ebony tree)
Scientific Name	<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i>
Maximum Height	20-25 meters
Diameter of Crown	5-7 meters
Diameter of Trunk	80-100 cm
Years to Grow	20-25 years
Economic Benefit	Source of income through tendu leaf collection

## Physical characteristics

The Tendu tree is a medium-sized tree that can grow up to 20 meters in height. It has a straight trunk with a diameter of 60-80 cm and a crown that is dense and spreading. The leaves of the Tendu tree are elliptic in shape, shiny and dark green in color. The flowers of the Tendu tree are small, white or yellowish in color, and are produced in clusters. The fruit of the Tendu tree is a fleshy berry that turns yellow or red when ripe.



## Ecological role

The Tendu tree plays an important role in maintaining the ecological balance of the forest. It is a hardy tree that can grow in a wide range of soil types and climatic conditions. It is known to be tolerant of drought and is resistant to pests and diseases. The Tendu tree provides shade and shelter to other plant and animal species in the forest, and its leaves and fruit are a source of food for many animals.



## **Importance to birds, animals, and insects**

The Tendu tree is an important source of food and shelter for many birds, animals, and insects. The fruit of the Tendu tree is a source of food for birds such as bulbuls, barbets, and parakeets. The leaves of the Tendu tree are eaten by the Indian elephant, and its bark is used by the sambar deer as a rubbing post. The Tendu tree also provides habitat for many insects such as bees, butterflies, and moths.





## **Soil and climatic requirements**

The Tendu tree prefers well-drained soils that are rich in organic matter. It can grow in a wide range of climatic conditions, from tropical to subtropical regions. It can tolerate high temperatures and is resistant to drought.

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

The Tendu tree is found naturally in many states of India, including Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh.

## **Different stages of tree growth**

The Tendu tree goes through different stages of growth, from seedling to maturity. The seedling stage lasts for about 1-2 years, during which the tree establishes itself and develops a

strong root system. The sapling stage lasts for about 3-4 years, during which the tree grows rapidly and develops a strong stem. The juvenile stage lasts for about 5-10 years, during which the tree continues to grow and develop its canopy. The adult stage begins after 10 years of growth, during which the tree produces fruit and begins to provide economic benefits to the farmer.

## **Benefits to farmers through agroforestry**

The Tendu tree is an important source of income for many farmers in India. The leaves of the Tendu tree are used to make traditional Indian cigarettes (beedis), which are a popular form of tobacco consumption in rural India. The Tendu tree is also an important source of timber, which is used in construction and furniture-making. In addition, the Tendu tree can be grown as part of an agroforestry system, which provides additional income to the farmer through the production of other crops.

In addition to its medicinal properties, the tendu fruit has economic significance as well. The leaves of the tendu tree are used to make tendu patta or Indian beedi, a type of cigarette commonly smoked in India. The tendu patta is rolled with a mixture of tobacco, lime, and spices and is an important livelihood source for millions of people involved in the beedi industry. The beedi industry provides employment to millions of people in rural areas of India and contributes significantly to the economy.

Overall, the tendu tree is an important plant species in India that not only has ecological significance but also provides economic benefits to farmers and the beedi industry. Its fruit is a source of traditional medicine, food for wildlife, and an important part of the ecosystem.



## Fruits of tendu tree

The Tendu tree (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) produces small, round, and hard fruits known as tendu or Tendu patta in Hindi. The fruit is a capsule that contains numerous seeds surrounded by a sweet, edible pulp. The fruit is green when young and turns blackish-brown as it ripens. The tendu fruit is commonly used in traditional medicine to treat various ailments such as dysentery, diarrhea, and respiratory problems.

Furthermore, the tendu fruit is also consumed by wildlife such as deer, monkeys, and birds, making it an important food source for them. The tendu tree also helps in soil conservation by preventing soil erosion and improving soil fertility. The tree's dense foliage provides shade and shelter to various bird species and insects, making it an important part of the ecosystem.

# Conclusion

In conclusion, the Tendu tree is a valuable tree species that has multiple uses and benefits. It is a fast-growing tree that can tolerate a wide range of soils and climatic conditions, making it an ideal species for agroforestry. The Tendu tree plays an important role in the ecology of the region, as it provides habitat for numerous birds, insects, and animals. The leaves of the tree are an important source of income for millions of people, who collect them and sell them to be used in the production of bidis, a traditional Indian cigarette. The wood of the tree is also useful and is used for making furniture, agricultural tools, and other household items.

Moreover, the Tendu tree has significant cultural and religious importance in many parts of India, where it is believed to have sacred properties. The tree is also known for its medicinal properties, and its bark and leaves are used in traditional medicine to treat a variety of ailments.

Overall, the Tendu tree is an important species that provides numerous benefits to both the environment and the people who rely on it for their livelihoods. It is essential to conserve and protect this valuable tree species to ensure its continued availability and sustainability for future generations.