

Azadirachta indica

Meliaceae

North-east India, Burma

Ar: *Nim*
Km: *Nim*
Eng: *Neem*

Bl: *Nima*
Nr: *Nim*
Tg: *Nim*

Hd: *Nim*
Sh: *Nim*
Tr: *Nim*

- Ecology:** A tree well known in its native India and now one of the most widely planted trees in Africa and pan-tropically in arid and semi-arid regions. It is drought resistant and does well on poor soils. The roots grow deep and spread over a wide area, but it does not stand waterlogging. In Eritrea, it was introduced early this century and planted along roadsides and railway lines in Massawa, Ghinda, Beareza, Keren, Elabered, Akurdet, Barentu, Tesenei, Tokombia and Afabet, 0-1,500 m.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture), poles, **medicine** (leaves, bark, roots), fodder (leaves, oil-seed cake), bee-forage, soil conservation, **ornamental, shade, windbreak, insecticide** (azadirachtin), oil, soap.
- Description:** A fast-growing, medium-sized tree which may reach 20 m, with a **dense, leafy, oval-shaped canopy, evergreen** except in the driest areas. BARK: Pale grey-brown, grooved. LEAVES: Glossy green, crowded at the ends of branches; **compound to 40 cm long, each leaflet curved and long, pointed, the edge roughly saw-toothed**, leaf blades unequal, a **smaller leaflet at the leaf tip**. FLOWERS: Small, fragrant, cream-white, hanging in long graceful sprays. FRUIT: **Oval yellow berries when ripe, 2 cm long, thin skinned with oily pulp**, usually 1 or 2 seeds.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings, direct sowing.
- Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: $\pm 5,000$.
- treatment:** Not necessary. Germination can be increased by removing the fruit pulp.
- storage:** Seed should not be stored as it loses viability quickly.
- Management:** Fast growing after the first year; lopping, pollarding. Should be weeded during establishment.
- Remarks:** The wood is tough and resistant to decay and termites. Leaf powder mixed in water makes an effective fumigant against seed borers in grain stores. A major use is for shelterbelts.

