

# **Gmelina arborea**

Verbenaceae

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## **South Asia**

**Eng:** *White teak*

## **Ecology**

Found naturally in moist forests of South Asia to China. Now a useful tree planted worldwide, 0–1,200 m. Grows in Moist and Wet Kolla agroclimatic zones especially in the western part of Ethiopia, 400–1,400 m. It prefers a hot and humid climate.

## **Uses**

Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, tools), poles, fodder (leaves, fruit), bee forage, shade, ornamental, windbreak.

## **Description**

A deciduous tree which may reach 18 m, but usually smaller; the crown fairly open. **BARK:** Pale cream when young, grey-yellow-brown with age, corky and rough. **LEAVES:** Large, heart-shaped to 20 cm, tip pointed, shiny above, pale and hairy below, on a stalk to 12 cm. **FLOWERS:** In clusters to 30 cm long, orange-yellow, each flower bell-shaped. Abundant nectar attracts bees. **FRUIT:** Orange-yellow, egg shaped to 2.5 cm, containing a stone with 1–4 seeds inside.

## **Propagation**

Seedlings, direct sowing at site, cuttings.

## **Seed**

Germination 40–80 % in 20–50 days under good conditions. 2,500–3,000 seed per kg.

**Treatment:** Soak in cold water for 24 hours.

**Storage:** Seed can be stored for a year without loss of viability.

## **Management**

It is fast growing and moderately drought resistant once established. Protect young trees from livestock. Pruning, lopping, coppicing. Coppices well when young but older stumps less so.

## **Remarks**

Young trees do not compete well with weeds. Established trees compete with crops and should not be grown near farms.



