

## ***Samanea saman* (urakkamthoongi)**

*Samanea saman*, also known as the Rain Tree or Monkey Pod Tree, is a species of tree in the pea family, Fabaceae.

### **Classifications**

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Angiosperms

Clade: Eudicots.

Clade: Rosids

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae (legume family)

Subfamily: Mimosoideae

Genus: *Samanea*

Species: *saman*



### **PHYSICAL CHARACTERS**

**Trunk:** It has a broad, spreading canopy and a straight, smooth trunk with a diameter of up to 1 meter(3.3feet).

**Leaves:** The leaves are bipinnate, meaning they have two set of leaflets, with 2-4 pairs of pinnae and 6-12 pairs of leaflets.

**Flowers:** Each flower cluster consists of numerous individual flowers with long, prominent stamens that give the cluster its fluffy appearance.

### **DISTRIBUTION AND USE**

Native to center and South America, from Mexico to Peru and Brazil. Introduced and naturalized in many tropical and subtropical region, including South East Asia, the Pacific Island, and Australia. The wood is valued for furniture-making, construction, and firewood. The leaves and pods are edible and can be used as fodder for livestock. The tree has medicinal properties, with the bark and leaves used to treat various ailments.

### **INTRESTING FACTS**

*Samanea saman* is known for its unique ability to absorb and store water during the rainy season, allowing it to survive during drought. The tree's leaves fold up at night, a process called 'nyctotropism'. It is a popular tree for shade and shelter in tropical regions and is often used as a 'nurse crop' to provide shade for other plants.