

***Terminalia catappa* (Badam)**

Terminalia catappa, also known as the badam. It is a popular choice for coastal landscaping due to its tolerance of salt spray and ability to stabilize soil.

Classification

Kingdom: Plantae

Order: Myrtales

Family: Combretaceae

Genus: Terminalia

Species: catappa

PHYSICAL CHARACTERS

Tree: The tree grows up to 35 meters tall. It has broad, round, and straight trunk.

Leaves: The leaves are large, elliptical, and pointed. It has a leathery texture and a distinctive almond-like shape.

Flowers: Small, yellowish, white, and fragrant. It is arranged in terminal spikes. It is 5-7 centimeters long.

Fruits: It is drupe, resembling, and an almond nut. When it is unripe, green in color and when it is ripe, brown in color.



ECOLOGICAL ROLE AND USES

Provides shade and shelter for various animals and birds. It stabilizes soil and prevents erosion. It is also a vital component of coastal ecosystems, tolerating salt spray and high winds. *Terminalia catappa* has various uses, including its timber, food, medicines, ornamental purpose. Its wood is valued for furniture-making, construction, and wood carvings. The seeds contain a non-bitter almond-like nut.

INTERESTING FACTS

Terminalia catappa has been used in traditional medicine for centuries to treat various ailments. The fruits are an important food source for various birds and animals.