



Neem (*Azadirachta indica*)

1. Name of Plant

Scientific Name: *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss.

Common Name: Neem

Hindi Name: नीम

Family: Meliaceae

2. Taxonomy Details

- **Kingdom:** Plantae
- **Division:** Angiosperms
- **Class:** Dicotyledonae
- **Order:** Sapindales
- **Family:** Meliaceae
- **Genus:** *Azadirachta*
- **Species:** *Azadirachta indica*

3. Habit & Habitat

Habit:

- Large evergreen to semi-evergreen tree
- Height: 15–20 m (sometimes up to 30 m)
- Deep taproot system and spreading crown

Habitat:

- Native to the Indian subcontinent
- Grows well in tropical and subtropical regions
- Found in dry deciduous forests, plains, roadsides, villages, and cultivated fields
- Highly drought-resistant and tolerant to poor soils

4. Ecological Importance

- Improves soil fertility through leaf litter and organic matter
- Provides habitat and food for birds, insects, and pollinators
- Acts as a natural air purifier and reduces environmental pollution
- Helps in desertification control and soil erosion prevention
- Plays a role in sustainable agriculture through biopesticide production

5. Economical Uses

Medicinal Uses

- Leaves, bark, seeds, and oil used in Ayurveda, Unani, and folk medicine
- Antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, and anti-inflammatory properties
- Used for skin diseases, dental care, blood purification, and diabetes control

Agricultural Uses

- Neem oil and neem cake used as **biopesticide and biofertilizer**
- Controls insects, nematodes, and fungal diseases in crops

Industrial Uses

- Used in soaps, cosmetics, toothpaste, shampoos, and pharmaceuticals
- Neem oil used in insect repellents and herbal products

♻️ **Timber & Fuel**

- Wood used for furniture, agricultural tools, and fuelwood