

Tropical Asia (India, Burma, Andaman Islands)

Eng: East-Indian walnut, Siris tree, Woman's tongue

- Ecology:** Commonly planted in the tropics as a shade tree. In Eritrea, it was introduced for roadside plantation and shade, especially in Ghinda and Nefasit on the eastern escarpment, 800-1,800 m. Roots are near the surface so requires a high watertable. The shallow roots make it liable to fall in storms. Prefers black-cotton soil but will grow in a wide range of soils including acid, alkaline and saline.
- Uses:** **Firewood, charcoal**, poles, posts, timber (furniture, floors), medicine, fodder (leaves, pods), **bee forage**, mulch, **soil conservation**, nitrogen fixation, **ornamental, shade**, windbreak, tannin (bark), soap (bark).
- Description:** A deciduous tree which may reach 25 m, usually 8-14 m; trunk often short, crown low and spreading. **BARK:** Grey-violet with rusty-brown breathing pores. **LEAVES:** Compound, 2-4 pairs pinnae, **3-11 pairs leaflets, each oblong**, tip rounded, usually 2-3 cm. **FLOWERS:** Green-yellow, fragrant brush heads on a stalk, short-lived. **FRUIT:** Shiny **yellow-brown pods in clusters** decorate the tree for a long time, each pod up to **30 cm long, bulging over seeds**, the seeds and pods "chatter" in the wind.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing; cuttings, root suckers.
- Seed:** Seed collection from January to May. Seeds prolifically and seed germination is good. No. of seeds per kg: 7,000-12,000.
- treatment:** Not necessary, but nicking improves germination rate.
- storage:** Seed can be stored for up to a year. Prevent insect attack.
- Management:** Fast growing on good sites; lopping, pollarding, coppicing, pruning.
- Remarks:** The hard and heavy wood used to make furniture.

