

Occasional Paper - 5  
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**PLANT WEALTH  
OF  
THE RAJ BHAVAN  
KOLKATA**



This Occasional Paper is dedicated to the gardeners of Raj Bhavan, past and present, who have tended the plant wealth of its garden with a diligence that amounts to devotion.

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## INTRODUCTION

Kolkata's Raj Bhavan (the erstwhile Government House) is one of the landmarks of this metropolitan city and a superb masterpiece of architecture. In 1773 when Calcutta was established as the capital of British India, it was decided to construct a new residence for the Governor General of India demolishing the old 'Buckingham House'. With the active initiative of Lord Wellesley, the then Governor General (1798-1805), the building was constructed in 1803. The architectural design was prepared by Captain Wyatt somewhat resembling 'Kedleston Hall' in Derbyshire, England, built by the forbears of Lord Curzon. The cost of construction of this massive structure was £ 178000. For the boundary wall with six gateways, Lord Wellesley had to lay out new roads and streets along all the sides of the residence. The twin lions placed over the arch of each gateway, the majestic building and the pebbled roads inside the premises drew the attention of visitors and their admiration.

Raj Bhavan is situated in the heart of the city of Kolkata, a few metres away to the east of the river Ganges (Hooghly). The two main railway terminals, Howrah and Sealdah are within 2 kilometers and the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose airport is at about 12 kilometers from Raj Bhavan, Kolkata. In the vicinity of the Raj Bhavan Estate are located the Writers' Buildings (the administrative complex of the Government of West Bengal) the General Post Office, the famous 'Lal Dighi' (Dalhousie Square) to the north, the Calcutta High Court and State Legislative Assembly House to the west, the Eden Gardens and the Ranji Cricket Stadium together with the 3 sq. km. wide 'Maidan' area reaching the Victoria Memorial Hall to the south, and several commercial centres and complexes situated to the east.

Geographically, Raj Bhavan is at a latitude of 22°32' N and at a longitude of 88°20' E, about 6 m in altitude above msl. The temperature ranges between 12 - 15° C (December - January) and 30 to 36° C (May - July), minor fluctuations in minimum and maximum temperatures being regularly encountered. The average annual rainfall is 1032 mm, minimum in winter months (December - January) and maximum during the monsoons (July - August). The soil is Gangetic alluvial with a fairly good percentage of loam, the pH ranges between 7.0 and 8.0. Three small villages contributing to the establishment of the metropolis over 300 years back were marshy and swampy areas often inundated by tidal bores and sheltering hosts of mangrove plants and animals. Fragments of these species in the form of peat obtained by excavation of earth during the recent installation of Metro Railways within the city indicate that originally mangrove forests existed on the site. Perhaps the mangrove palm *Nypa fruticans* Thunb. so widespread in these areas survives here because of this.

The Raj Bhavan garden is unique in its layout, design, aesthetic beauty and in its plant wealth. It is the home of over 10,000 trees, shrubs, creepers, climbers and other perennial and annual ornamental plants representing a large number of families, genera, species and varieties including some uncommon, rare and threatened plants. Considering its population and diversity, the garden is more or less comparable to a Botanical Garden.

According to Simm's survey made in 1850, the area of Raj Bhavan and its compound exceeds 25 acres (10 hectares). Later surveys have confirmed that it covers an area of over 27 acres (11 hectares).

From the references to the Governor's House garden found in Curzon's 'British Government in India' (1925) Vol. 1, Symons' (1935) 'Story of Government House' and Governor A. L. Dias' 'Brief Notes on the Gardens of Raj Bhavan at Calcutta, Barrackpore and Darjeeling' (1973), it is seen that it was due to the meticulous efforts of successive Governors General, Governors and their wives that the campus was enriched with hundreds of different species of beautiful ornamental garden plants, diverse trees and well laid out lawns providing relief, pleasure, peace and tranquility amidst the busy life of Raj Bhavan. Emily Eden, the botanist sister of Lord Auckland made a contribution towards the development of the garden.

The garden to the south of the house with lovely lawns and flower beds began to assume its present form under the fostering care of Lady Mayo (between 1869 and 1872) and Lady Lytton (between 1876 and 1880). It appears from a letter of Emily Eden that Lady Sarah Amherst (1823 – 1828) made a spectacular garden around the palace. Sir Nathaniel Wallich, the then Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, Howrah named a genus *Amherstia* (the flowering tree *Amherstia nobilis* Wall., called 'Urbasi' in Bengali and 'Queen of Flowering Trees' in English) as a token of appreciation towards the love and care of plants and honour shown by Lady Amherst. Lady Mayo started planning and planting on a bigger scale while Lady Lytton initiated making a raised mound at the southern extremity of the garden and gave attention in growing aquatic plants and erected an arched masonry bridge. To the east of the house there is a tennis lawn and in the enclosure between the two wings of the building, a swimming pool, constructed by Lord Lytton, Governor of Bengal (1922 - 1927). The east lawn has been traditionally used for receptions. To the left of the south west entrance of east lawn, a rock garden has come up, the design of which was suggested by Smt. Dias (1971 - 1977).

Among the notable contributions towards the development of the garden during the post independence period by the Governors, mention needs to be made of coconut trees leading from North Gateway planted at the instance of Smt. Padmaja Naidu during her term as Governor of West Bengal from 1956 to 1961. The redesigning of the layout of two rose gardens on the east and west sides and the introducing of about 200 hybrid and

floribunda roses was done at the instance of Governor Dharma Vira (1967 – 1969). The planting of several shrubs and trees including fruit trees was initiated by Governor S. S. Dhawan during 1969 - 1971. The planting of a number of ornamental plants around the private entrance and drive leading from North Gateway to the private entrance and from the private entrance to the South Gateway, the introduction of some avocado plants, the giant water lily of the Amazon Basin obtained from the Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah, the conversion of circular lily pool in front of private entrance to a rock garden, the alteration of a golf course at southern portion of the garden were initiated by Governor Dias during 1971 - 1974. A scientific approach for the proper identification and labelling of plants was entrusted to the Indian Botanic Garden, Botanical Survey of India by Governor T. V. Rajeswar in 1989. The encouragement of continuing developmental activities in the garden by Governor S. Nurul Hasan and Governor K. V. Raghunath Reddy need special mention. Governor A. R. Kidwai paid close attention in developing the existing rose garden. Shri Justice Shyamal K. Sen, who officiated as Governor from 18th May 1999 to 3rd December 1999 introduced several plants and trees. Governor Viren J. Shah and Smt. Anjana V. Shah introduced several cultivars of rose, *Alpinia*, *Bambusa*, *Heliconia* and orchids, thus enriching the indoor plant collections to a great extent. The development of a Japanese garden by them is another added attraction to the garden. India is traditionally renowned for herbal medicines and has a treasure trove of medicinal plants. A 'Herbal Garden' has been developed and was inaugurated by the President of India Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam on 13th July 2005.

With such concerted efforts and the keen interest extended by the residents of Raj Bhavan, the garden has won in garden competitions hosted by specialist organizations in the city. Seasonal flowers are maintained round the year in the herbaceous borders and artistically designed beds. Indoor plants including orchids, cacti and succulents and other indigenous and exotic collections are nurtured in a greenhouse at the southeast corner - a very delightful spot indeed. It is worthwhile to mention that the southern portion of the private entrance up to South Gateway is the main attraction of the garden with a wide variety of ornamental and flowering plants and a number of other attractive features.

Since access is not normally allowed inside the premises, plant lovers have been curious to know the plant treasurers within Raj Bhavan. For this, Governor Raghunath Reddy, in 1989, wanted an inventory of the plant resources of the Raj Bhavan garden to be prepared by the authorities of the Indian Botanic Garden, Botanical Survey of India establishing their correct nomenclature (name) with location details inside the garden and labelling each of the species. To achieve this, the garden was divided into 10 distinct plots (See map on page 8). The identity and location of plants in each plot were ascertained

and plotted in the layout map for easy convenience in identifying the plants. Short descriptions of the plants with their scientific names, families, Bengali, English, Hindi and Sanskrit names, synonyms (of Botanical names), origin, phenological data, mode of propagation and utility were incorporated.

The attempts of the authors will be rewarded if this handbook serves a useful purpose to the authorities of Raj Bhavan and to students, researchers and persons interested and eager to study the bio-diversity conserved in this protected enclosure.

The authors are grateful to Sri Gopalkrishna Gandhi, the Governor of West Bengal for his interest in this publication. The kind help, guidance, suggestions, inspiration and cooperation extended by Smt. Tara Gandhi have been invaluable but for which this manuscript would have gone into cold storage. The kind help and cooperation extended by Shri D. Rath, IAS, Secretary to the Governor, Shri Mrinal Kanti Kundu, Superintendent, Governor's Estates and Shri S. K. Choudhury, former Superintendent, Governor's Estates are thankfully acknowledged. The assistance rendered by the Raj Bhavan garden staff during the course of studies and survey is also acknowledged with deep appreciation.

The cooperation extended by Dr. N. D. Paria, Professor, Taxonomy and Biosystematics Laboratory, Department of Botany, Calcutta University towards corroboration of scientific names as per recent nomenclature and presentation of other botanical details is greatly appreciated.

Grateful thanks are due to Dr. M. P. Nayar, ex-Director, Botanical Survey of India for his interest and encouragement in undertaking this important work. The help and assistance received from the fellow colleagues of the Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah acknowledged with gratitude.

**D. P. Mukhopadhyay**

**R. K. Chakraverty**

## Contributors' Profiles

### Dr. D. P. Mukhopadhyay

Dr. Debi Prasad Mukhopadhyay (born 1938), Ph.D. in Horticulture from Calcutta University, started his career as Assistant Horticulturist-cum-Lecturer in Agri-Horticulture Society of India in 1963. Afterwards he joined C.S.I.R. as Research Fellow in 1964 and Indian Botanic Garden, B.S.I. as Assistant Curator in 1966, where he was in various responsible capacities till his voluntary retirement from service as Deputy Director in 1994.

Intensive research activities in cultivated plants and crops of ornamental interests enabled Dr. Mukhopadhyay to write 50 research papers & articles and 9 books on horticulture and allied subjects. His book in Bengali – ‘Rabindrasangeete Udbhid O Phul’ has been acclaimed equally by scientists, litterateurs, exponents in Tagore songs and critics. The book reveals a unique research-oriented theme on plants and their impact in lyrics composed by Tagore.

Dr. Mukhopadhyay is now a Guest Lecturer in floriculture in Calcutta University. His biography has been published in “Eminent Personalities of 20th Century (2000)” by International Biographical Research Academy (IBRA).

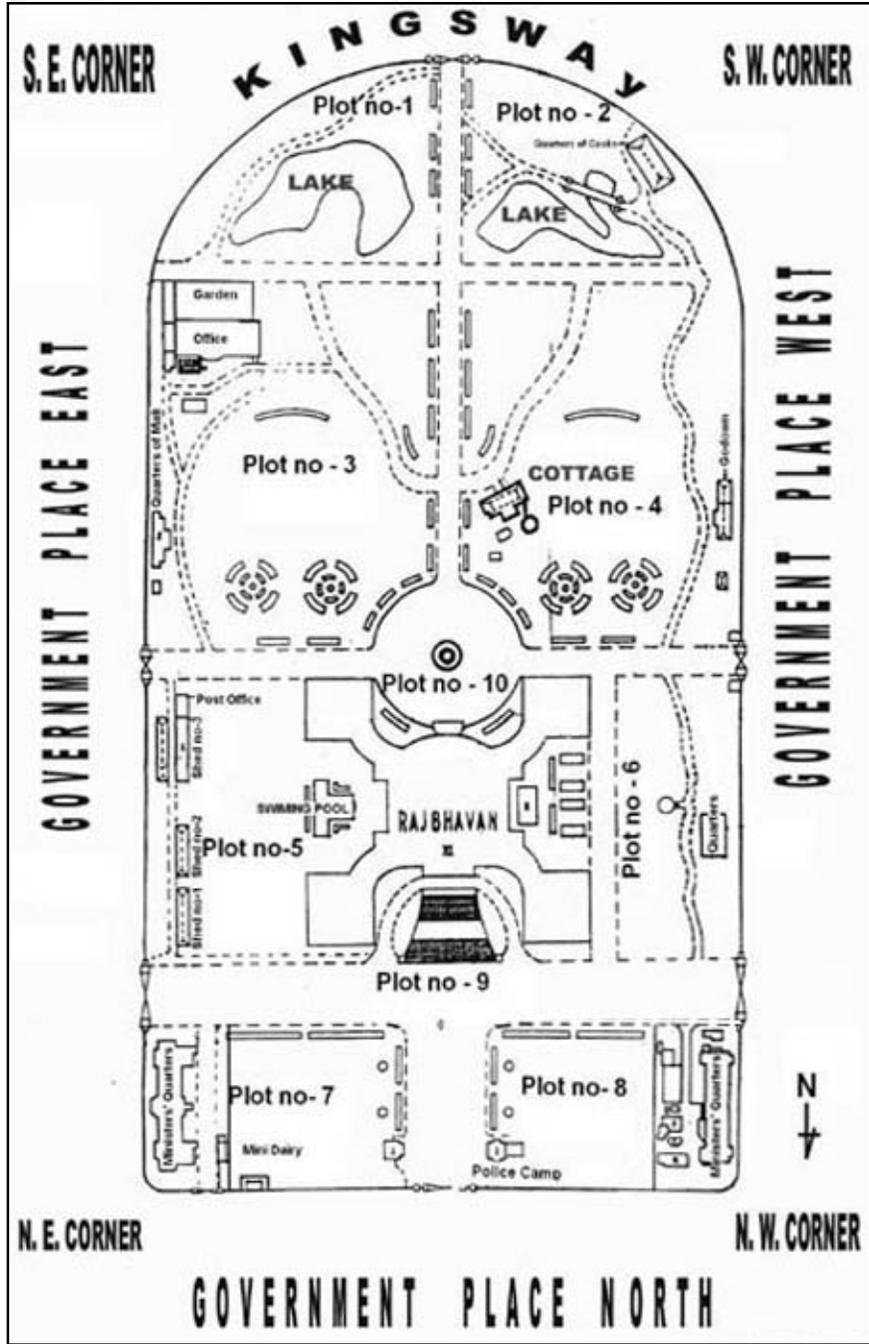
### Dr. R. K. Chakraverty

Dr. R. K. Chakraverty (born 1939), Ph.D. from the Calcutta University, made a significant contribution in the early days of his career in Calcutta University in research work on hormonal regulation of plant growth and development.

In 1970 Dr. Chakraverty joined the Botanical Survey of India, as a Plant Physiologist and served as Head of the Indian Botanic Garden at Howrah for over 15 years. His research domain comprised medicinal plants, gibberellic acid and fibre plants. He also contributed to the conservation and multiplication of rare and threatened species among Indian plants.

More than 225 scientific papers of Dr. Chakraverty have enriched various journals. He was instrumental in publishing the Hindi magazine ‘Vanaspati Bani’ by the BSI. His published five books on Botany (BSI publication) is also reckonable.

Dr. Chakraverty is a Fellow of the West Bengal Academy of Science & Technology.



## **READER'S GUIDE**

This publication is meant for the lay reader as well as for the reader with special botanical or horticultural interests. To make the contents easily accessible, separate sections have been prepared for trees, shrubs, climbers, palms and other ornamentals that can be seen in the garden. These are listed alphabetically according to their scientific names, irrespective of their botanical classification order.

Each plant's common English name and vernacular name (Hindi, Bengali and Sanskrit) is given followed by a brief description. More botanical details of the family to which the plant belongs and characteristics of its leaf, flower and fruit are provided in individual boxes. Useful explanations of specialized botanical words can be found in the Glossary of Technical Terms.

To search for a particular plant, the reader may use the Index of Scientific Names (in this index all the plant species are placed alphabetically without categorization into trees, shrubs, climbers etc.), the Index of Common English names or the Index of Hindi, Bengali and Sanskrit Names.

An outline map of the Raj Bhavan Garden on page 8 with numbered plots can be co-related with the location details for the species given in each entry.



# TREES

## ***Acacia auriculiformis***

Australian Acacia, Golden shower

Bengali : \* *Sonajhuri, Aakashmoni*

The species is a native of tropical Australia. The generic name indicates a point or thorn, probably referring to spinescent stipules. The species refers to ear-like shape of its fruits.

An evergreen tree of about 15 m height with a dull green and thin rounded crown, foliage closely allied to that of *Eucalyptus*. Flowers small, rich yellow in

***Acacia auriculiformis*** A. Cunn. ex Benth.

Syn. : *A. moniliformis* Griseb.

Family : Mimosaceae

Leaf : Leaf stalk modified into a flattened blade (phyllode)

Flowers : Flowers small, crowded in somewhat drooping spikes

Fruits : Pods broad, twisted

colour, slightly fragrant, in long drooping bunches. Flowering almost throughout the year, profuse during autumn. Propagation generally by seeds.

The tree is grown in gardens for its attractive foliage and colourful fragrant flowers.

The species is a good sand binder and cultivated to check soil erosion. Bark is rich in tannin. The seeds contain a fatty oil.

Location : Plots 1, 2; Population : 2.

\* The name 'Sonajhuri' for this plant was given by Tagore probably for its rich yellow flowers in drooping bunches.

## ***Adenanthera pavonina***

Coral wood, Red wood

Bengali : *Raktakambal*, Hindi : *Raktakambal*, Sanskrit : *Kanchandana*

The plant is a native of tropical Asia. The generic name implies presence of glands in the anthers. The species refers to peacock-like flowers and seeds.

It is a beautiful tree attaining great size with uneven rounded crown and slightly buttressed trunk. Leaves compound, leaflets with blunt and rounded apex. Flowers small, faintly scented, opening from below upwards. Flowering during summer. Propagation by seeds.

It is grown in big gardens as specimen plants. The scarlet seeds are shining and preserve colour indefinitely; used as beads in necklaces and also as weights by goldsmiths.

***Adenantha pavonina* L.**

Family : Mimosaceae  
Leaf : Pinnate compound; leaflets-ovate, obtuse

Powdered wood is used as a dye. 'Tilak' is also made from its wood which is used in making cabinets and furniture.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 4, 7, 9; Population : 12.

***Aegle marmelos***

Bael, Stone apple

Bengali : *Bel*, Hindi : *Bel*, Sanskrit : *Bilva*

A native to India, growing wild in the sub-Himalayan tract, Myanmar, Thailand, Indo- China and Sri Lanka. The generic name is derived from the Greek word *Aegle*, one of the Hesperides. The species is obtained from the Portuguese name of the tree.

A small deciduous tree with sharp axillary thorns and leaves normally in groups of three borne on wingless petioles. Flowers greenish white, fragrant.

***Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corr.**

Family : Rutaceae  
Leaf : Leaves trifoliate, gland dotted and aromatic  
Fruit : Globose with smooth aromatic rind

Fruits hard, spherical, greenish when unripe, turn greenish yellow or pale yellow on maturity, sweet orange coloured mucilaginous pulp. Flowering from May to July and fruits start maturing from December.

Propagation by seeds and root suckers.

The tree is widely cultivated in India and is found in temple gardens. Leaves are offered in worship, the wood used in sacred fires. Unripe and half-ripe fruit is regarded as a digestive and used in diarrhoea and dysentery. Ripe fruit used in drinks or marmalade and has a cooling effect. The gummy mucilage around seeds is a good adhesive.

Location : Plot 2 ; Population : 1.

## *Alstonia scholaris*

Scholar tree, Dita Bark tree, Devil's tree

Bengali : *Chhatim*, Hindi : *Chatiun, Satwin*, Sanskrit : *Saptaparna*

A native of Indo-Malayan region. The genus is named after Professor C. Alston, a famous botanist of Edinburgh. The species has its origin in its use for making students' black boards or slates.

A tall evergreen tree with branches at distinct intervals. Leaves shining, smooth, deep green above and whitish green below, arranged in whorls. Flowers

**Alstonia scholaris** (L.) R. Br.

Family : Apocynaceae

Leaf : Leaves obovate or elliptic  
oblong in shape

Flower : Terminal

small, white or pale green, sweetly scented. Numerous long, green, slender fruits hang from the branches of the tree. Flowering from October to January and continue till late

March. Propagated mostly by seeds.

The tree is designated as the 'State Tree' of West Bengal. A widely used avenue tree. The bark known as 'dita bark' of commerce is used in medicine in the treatment of malarial fever, heart diseases, asthma, dysentery, diarrhoea, leprosy and ulcers. Wood used for preparing drawing boards, packing boxes, coffins, pencils, slate frames etc. The tree has been honoured in the academic life of Santiniketan where twigs with seven leaves (Saptaparni) are presented to scholars and degree recipients of Visva-Bharati University in its Annual Convocations.

Location : Plots 1, 6; Population : 2

## ***Annona squamosa***

Custard apple

Bengali : *Ata*, Hindi : *Sharifa*, Sanskrit : *Sitaphal*

A native of tropical America, naturalised in India. The genus is derived from a Brazilian Indian name for edible fruiting trees. The species is given for the rough texture of its fruits.

A small tree with irregularly spreading branches. Leaves usually tapering at apex and round at base.

### ***Annona squamosa* L.**

Family : Annonaceae

Leaf : Leaves usually lanceolate, acute or acuminate at apex, ovate, elliptical at base

Fruit : Spheroid

Flowers borne on young branchlets. Fruits yellowish green, about the size of an orange, heart-shaped.

Propagation by seeds or

air-layering.

The pulpy, sweet fruit is edible. Unripe fruit, seed, leaf and root are considered medicinal and applied for destroying insects. Roots used as purgative.

Location : Plot 2; Population :1.

## ***Anthocephalus chinensis***

Kadamba, Wild cinchona

Bengali : *Kadam* Hindi : *Karam, Kadam* Sanskrit : *Kadamba*

A native of India, China and S. E. Asia. The generic name owes to two Greek words, 'anthos' and 'kephalos' indicating ball shaped flowering heads. The species refers to its place of origin.

A tall deciduous tree with dense crown of foliage and nearly drooping branches. Young leaves green, shining and smooth above, hairy below. Flowers ball shaped due to assembling of many flowers. Flowering in June - July with the onset of rainy season and continues for nearly three months. Propagated usually by seeds and sometimes by cuttings.

The tree has a mythological status, connected with the life of Krishna. Used as an ornamental and roadside tree. Fruits edible. The tree is also medicinally important. Kadamba, Ashoka, Arjun, Champak, Palas, Bot, Aswatha and Padma (lotus) are some of the plants mentioned in Ramayana and Mahabharata.

***Anthocephalus chinensis*** (Lamk.) A. Rich. ex Walp.

Syn. : *A. indicus* A. Rich., *A. cadamba* Miq.

Family : Rubiaceae

Leaf : Young leaves glabrous above, pubescent below

important. Kadamba, Ashoka, Arjun, Champak, Palas, Bot, Aswatha and Padma (lotus) are some of the plants mentioned in Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Location : Plots 2, 4, 6. Population : 4.

### ***Aphanamixis polystachya***

Sohaga

Bengali : *Tiktaraj, Pittaraj, Sohaga*, Hindi : *Harin-harra*, Sanskrit : *Rohituka*

An indigenous plant distributed in the sub-Himalayan tracts of India, Andamans, Myanmar, Malay Peninsula, Philippines and Malayan Archipelago. The genus is coined from two Greek words meaning inconspicuous flowers. The species in Greek means with many spikes.

A moderate evergreen tree with dark green foliage and straight cylindrical

***Aphanamixis polystachya*** (Wall.) Parker

Syn. : *Amoora rohituka* Wight & Arn.

Family : Meliaceae

Leaf : Leaves opposite, elliptic or ovate-acuminate, base generally obtuse

Flowers : Borne on numerous spikes

trunk with a heavy crown. Leaves 0.3 - 1 m, leaflets 9-15 shortly stalked. Flowers white, numerous. Fruits pale yellow or reddish. Propagation mostly by seeds.

An oil is extracted from the chocolate brown seeds which

has medicinal use. Also used for lighting purposes.

Location : Plots 4, 6; Population : 4.

### ***Araucaria cookii***

New Caledonian pine.

Probably a native of South America and distributed in Florida, Australia and other parts of the world. The generic name is derived from the vernacular name of the plant in South Chile. The species recalls the memory of the English explorer, Captain Cook.

A tall evergreen tree. Young leaves closely arranged on branchlet, adult leaves dense, short and egg-shaped.

***Araucaria cookii*** R. Br. ex D. Don

Syn. : *A. columnaris* Hook

Family : Araucariaceae

Leaf : Young leaves alternate

Cones (the hard dry fruit) about 10 cm diameter.

Mostly propagated by seeds.

Cuttings of young, ripened woods are

also in practice.

Location : Plot 10 ; Population : 1.

### ***Artocarpus altilis***

Bread fruit

Bengali : *Bilati kanthal*

A native of Tahiti Islands and naturalised in parts of Sri Lanka and west-coast of India. Two Greek words - artos (bread) and karpos (fruit) form the generic name.

A handsome quick-growing evergreen tree, 8-10 m. high. Leaves large, 45 cm long, 25-30 cm broad, thick, dark-green, polished above. Flowers and fruits are oval in form, covered with prickles, resembling a small jack-fruit.

***Artocarpus altilis*** (Park.) Fosb.

Syn. : *A. incisa* L., *A. communis* Forst.

Family : Moraceae

Leaf : Leathery, palmately cut

Flowering in Nov.-Dec. and fruit ripens in March-April.

Propagation by seeds.

Grown in the garden for beautiful, shining foliage

and as a specimen plant. The fruits are used as vegetable.

Location : Plot 5, 7 Population : 2.

## ***Artocarpus heterophyllus***

Jack-fruit

Bengali : *Kanthal*, Hindi : *Kathal*, Sanskrit : *Panasa*

A native of the Indo-Malayan region. The generic name is derived from two Greek words artos (bread) and karpos (fruit). The species refers to its leaf characters.

A fruit tree of tropics exuding milky juice with dense crown and cylindrical stem. Leaves variable in sizes. Fruits borne on main branches and trunks. Fruiting usually after eight to ten years depending on the climate. Propagation by seeds.

***Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.**

Syn. : *A. integrifolia* L.

Family : Moraceae

Unripe fruit is used as vegetable and the ripe ones eaten fresh or preserved in syrup. The other species grown in this garden is *A. lakoocha* Roxb. Known as Monkey Jack (Bengali : *Dephal*, Hindi :

*Barhal*), also a native of Indo-Malayan region and grown for edible fruits.

Location : Plots 2 — 6, 8, 9 ; Population : 14.

## ***Averrhoa carambola***

Chinese gooseberry, Carambola

Bengali : *Kamranga*, Hindi : *Kamrakh*, *Karmal*

A tropical fruit tree, native of Malaysia. It is named after Averrhoes, a famous Arabian physician and carambola is a Spanish name.

A tall tree, 10m. high, branches drooping. Leaves divided, leaflets smooth pointed, two rows on either side of central midrib, one leaflet at the apex of the leaf. Flowers many, small, borne in short branches, clustered along the twigs and from the main trunk, bright purple and white in colour. Fruits narrow, 5 prominent ridges, sweet and sour, acidic flavour when ripe and greenish-yellow in colour.

Flowering and fruiting almost throughout the year. Propagation by inarching.

Grown in the garden for fruits. The fruits are rich in vitamin-C and minerals. It is also cooked. Ripe fruits are eaten raw or made into jam. Fruits and flowers are known to be good sources of iron and vitamin-B.

***Averrhoa carambola* L.**

Family : Averrhoaceae

Location : Plot 3. Population 3.

### ***Azadirachta indica***

Margosa, Neem

Bengali : *Neem*, Hindi : *Neem*, Sanskrit : *Nimba*

A native to India distributed in the Indo-Malayan region. The genus is derived from Persian. The species refers to its native place.

A medium evergreen tree with thick bark and a straight trunk. Leaves with 9-15 leaflets. Flowers white, honey-scented. Fruits greenish yellow when ripe. Flowering in March - May. Propagation by seeds.

***Azadirachta indica*** A. Juss.

Syn. : *Melia azadirachta* L.

Family : Meliaceae

Leaf : Leaves pinnately compound,  
leaflets serrated and short  
petioled.

The tree has several medicinal uses. Seeds are the source of neem oil. A gum is also exuded by the tree. The wood is like that of mahogany and the bark very bitter.

Location : Plots 1—3, 7. Population : 5.

### ***Bauhinia purpurea***

Mountain Ebony, Camel's foot tree, Purple Bauhinia

Bengali : *Deva Kanchan*, Hindi : *Khairwal*

A native of India, Myanmar and China. The species is named after its flower colour.

Small or medium evergreen ornamental tree. Leaves somewhat heart shaped, cleft 1/3 to 1/2 of depth. Flowers in axillary or terminal bunches, fragrant, usually red but ranging from pink shades to deep crimson-purple.

***Bauhinia purpurea*** L.

Syn. : *B. triandra* Roxb.

Family : Caesalpiniaceae

Leaf : Leaves somewhat cordate

Flower : Flowers in axillary or terminal  
corymbs

Flowering in winter from September to December. Propagation by seeds and cuttings.

Grown in gardens as one of the finest flowering small ornamental trees. Bark used for

dyeing and tanning. Roots toxic.

Location : Plots 1,2,3,4,5,6. Population : 18.

## ***Bauhinia variegata***

Variegated Bauhinia

Bengali : *Raktakanchan, Lal kanchan*, Hindi : *Kachnar*

A native of India, Myanmar and China. The species refers to its variegated flower colours.

A medium sized tree with leaves somewhat broader than long, divided 1/4 to 1/3 in depth. Flowers large, fragrant in clusters, rose-coloured, variegated red and yellow.

### ***Bauhinia variegata* L.**

Family : Caesalpiniaceae  
Flowers : Flowers in short  
raceme or corymb.

Flowering in winter in leafless condition. Propagation by seeds and cuttings.

Grown in gardens as a winter flowering ornamental tree. Bark used in some skin diseases and ulcers. Root decoction useful for dyspepsia.

Location : Plots 3, 4, 5. Population : 6.

## ***Bombax ceiba***

Red silk cotton, Red kapok

Bengali : *Simul*, Hindi : *Simul, Semur*

A native of America and Australia. The name of the genus is a Greek name for raw silk. The species is an aboriginal name.

A tall deciduous tree. Branches develop from the spiny, cylindrical trunks in whorls. Leaves palm shaped, light green. Flowers axillary or in clusters, red or scarlet borne near the ends of branches. Flowering in defoliated condition.

### ***Bombax ceiba* L.**

Syn. : *B. malabarica* (DC.) Schott & Endl., *Salmalia malabarica* (DC.) Schott & Endl.  
Family : Bombacaceae  
Leaf : Leaves palmate, 5-7 foliate

Flowers visible in February-March. Propagation by seeds.

The tree is a rich source of fibre of high commercial importance obtained from the silky floss of the inner epidermis of the fruit. The tree has a number of medicinal properties.

It is a stimulant and serves as an antidote to snake bite.

Location : 1—4, 7; Population : 14.

## ***Brownea ariza***

West Indian mountain rose

Bengali : *Parijat, Ghanta ashoke*

A native of tropical America. The generic name is after P. Brown, an English naturalist in the West-Indies.

A handsome ornamental tree with umbrella shaped crown and branches touching the ground looking extremely beautiful when it bears drooping new leaves. Young leaves flaccid, pale-pinkish buff, then pinkish brown, arising in the summer and rains. Leaves divided into separate leaflets arranged in opposite

***Brownea ariza*** Benth.

Family : Caesalpinaceae

pairs on either side of a central midrib. Flowers large, compact, head, 10-12 cm diam., red in colour, at the end of the branches. Flowering in Feb-June. Propagation is by air-layering and seeds.

Brownea trees were planted in the garden in 1994.

Location : Plot . 3, 5, 7. Population : 3.

## ***Butea monosperma***

Flame of the forest

Bengali : *Palas*, Hindi : *Dhak, Palas*, Sanskrit : *Palasa, Kinsuk*

A native of India. The generic name is after John Stuart, the third Earl of Bute and a botanical author. The species indicates its one-seeded pods.

A medium deciduous tree with crooked trunk. Leaves with roundish leaflets hairy beneath, upper surface deep green, lower surface pale whitish green. Flowers showy, velvety, deep scarlet or crimson scarlet with olive green calyx.

***Butea monosperma*** (Lamk.) Taub.

Syn. : *Butea frondosa* Koenig ex Roxb.

Family : Fabaceae

Leaf : Leaves pinnate, leaflets pubescent beneath

Flower : Flowers on racemes

Cultivated in the garden as a flowering tree. Used for reclaiming saline soils and planting in drought hit areas. A yellow or orange dye is obtained from the

dried flowers. The tree is the source of ‘Bengal kino’ or ‘Butea gum’, used for curing chronic diarrhoea. Also used in leprosy, piles and high fever. The three leaflets of the leaves are believed to represent Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. It plays an important part in Hindu rituals.

Location : Plots 2, 4. Population : 6.

### ***Callistemon lineraris***

Bottle brush tree

Bengali : *Botol burush*

The genus is coined from two Greek words referring collectively to the beautiful stamens. The species is named for its linear leaves. A native of Australia.

A small tree with very narrow leaves and scarlet flowers resembling brushes used for cleaning bottles. Flowering throughout the year. Propagation by seeds and cuttings.

***Callistemon lineraris*** DC.

Family : Myrtaceae

Grown in garden as ornamental plant for its graceful appearance. The small foliage is aromatic and has several medicinal uses.

Location : Plot 1, 2. Population : 3

### ***Callistemon polandii***

Golden-tipped bottle-brush

A native of Australia and introduced in our country in 1975.

An evergreen, dwarf tree, spreading in habit with pendulous branches. Leaves very narrow, sharp pointed, young leaves are yellow which turn to copper-red and finally green. Flowers scarlet, brush-like, compact, borne near the end of the branches. Golden anthers covering the filaments give the plant the name of

***Callistemon polandii* Hort.**

Family : Myrtaceae

Leaf : Lanceolate

golden-tipped bottle-brush. Flowering in February-April. Propagation by air-layering.

Grown in the garden for its most attractive scarlet flowers, very uncommon.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.



Drawn by Dr. Subrata Mukhopadhyay.

***Calophyllum inophyllum***

Alexandrian laurel

Bengali and Hindi : *Sultan champa*, Sanskrit : *Nagachampa*, *Punnaga*.

A native of tropical Asia. The generic name in Greek means beautiful leaved. The species indicates distinct veins on leaves.

A medium evergreen tree. Leaves dark green shining on both the surfaces.

***Calophyllum inophyllum* L.**

Family : Clusiaceae

Flower : In raceme inflorescence

Flowers in bunches, pure white in colour. Flowering during summer. Propagation by seeds and cuttings.

A good ornamental tree suitable for gardens and roadside plantations. Dumba oil obtained from seeds is used for burning and medicine.

Location : Plots 1,2,4. Population : 5.

### ***Cascabela thevetia***

Yellow oleander, Trumpet flower

Bengali : *Kolkephul*, Hindi : *Pili kaner*

A native of West Indies. The species name is after Andre Thevet, A French monk. The name of the genus refers to Peru.

A small woody tree with a number of cylindrical branches. Leaves glossy green, narrow, crowded at the twig ends. Flowers fragrant, funnel shaped, borne on terminal or semi-terminal clusters. The species has yellow or lemon-yellow, white and saffron coloured flower cultivars. Flowering all the year round, more during rainy season. Propagated by seeds, rarely by stem cuttings.

<p><b><i>Cascabela thevetia</i></b> (L.) Leopold Syn. : <i>Thevetia nerifolia</i> Juss. ex Steud., <i>Thevetia peruviana</i> (Pers.) K. Schum Family : Apocynaceae</p>
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Cultivated in gardens for continuous and profuse blooming. Flowers offered during worship. Milky latex and seeds are reported to be poisonous. The plant can also

be grown in hedges as it is always avoided by cattle.

Location : Plots 2, 4, 5; Population : 5.

### ***Cassia fistula***

Indian laburnum, Golden shower

Bengali : *Sondal*, *Amaltas*, *Bandarlathi*, Hindi : *Amaltas*, *Girmalah*, *Bandarauri*

A native of tropical Asia. The generic name is an ancient Greek name. The species name means a pipe referring to the long pipe-shaped pods.

A deciduous ornamental tree planted in gardens and avenues for beautiful flush of golden yellow pendulous flowers hanging in clusters. Flowering season is summer (April - June). Propagation by seeds.

Grown as an ornamental plant in the garden. The timber is hard and durable.

<p><b><i>Cassia fistula</i></b> L. Family : Caesalpiniaceae</p>
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Roots used as tonic. Leaf juice used for skin diseases. Fruit pulp possesses purgative property.

Location : Plots 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8. Population : 16.

Other species of *Cassia* growing in Raj Bhavan gardens are :

1. *C. glauca* Lam. : A dwarf tree, native of tropical asia and Australia producing yellow flowers.

Location : Plot 4; Population : 1.

2. *C. javanica* L. (Java Cassia). A native of Malay producing pink flowers in bunches.

Location : Plots 1,2; Population : 2.

3. *C. lancasteri* : Location : Plots 3,6; Population : 3.

4. *C. renigera* Wall ex Benth (The Pink shower tree)

Tree somewhat dwarf in habit. Flowers coral pink in thick clusters found in April - May.

Location : Plot 6; Population : 1.

5. *C. siamea* Lamk. (The kassod tree). A large tree with bright yellow flowers in terminal clusters seen almost throughout the year.

Location : Plots 2, 4, 5, 7; Population : 7.

### ***Casuarina equisetifolia***

Casuarina, She-oak, Beefwood

Bengali : *Bilaiti Jhau*, Hindi : *Jangli Saru*

The tree is a native of Australia, Pacific islands, Malaya and Chittagong coasts. The generic name is derived from the Greek word *Casuaris* referring to the feathery appearance of its branches. The species for the resemblance of its leaves to *Equisetum*, a pteridophytic plant.

A large evergreen tree with drooping branches. Leaves represented by scales at nodes. Flowers unisexual. Male flowers are at the end of the branches and female flowers are represented by small cones, spherical in shape.

***Casuarina equisetifolia*** Forst. &  
Forst. f.  
Family : Casuarinaceae

Flowering in May - June.  
Propagation by seeds and cuttings.

A tree widely planted in gardens and avenues. Used as windbreak, fuel, support, reclamation of waste land near the sea and for afforesting sandy beaches.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3; Population : 4.

### ***Ceiba pentandra***

White silk cotton tree, True kapok tree,

Bengali : *Schwetsimul*, Hindi : *Safed simul*, *Katau*, Sanskrit : *Sveta salmali*

A native of tropical regions of Asia, Africa and America. The generic name is of aboriginal origin. *Pentandra* refers to the five stamens of its flowers.

A large tree with spreading horizontal branches. Young trunk spiny and green in colour. Leaflets originate from a circular plate or disc at the top of petiole. Flowers white or rose. Flowering in December - January. Propagation by seeds and cuttings.

<p><i>Ceiba pentandra</i> ( L.) Gaertn. Syn. : <i>Eriodendron anfractuosum</i> DC. Family : Bombacaceae</p>
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The pods (fruits) which ripen in March - April yield floss. The kapok fibre is light, brittle, elastic and used in a

restricted way in textile industry and in sports. Kapok seed oil has similar quality as cotton seed oil.

Location : Plots 2, 3, 4. Population : 3.

### ***Chrysophyllum cainito***

Star apple

Bengali : *Petakara*

A native of West Indies, Central America, India and Malaya. The generic name indicates golden leaf in Greek, pointing to the colour of the undersurface of the leaves. The species refers to the name of an edible fruit.

<p><i>Chrysophyllum cainito</i> L. Family : Sapotaceae</p>
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A medium evergreen tree bearing dark green, narrow, shiny leathery leaves. Flowers small, greenish white. Fruits edible, hard, globular and apple like. Cultivated in the warm regions of India.

Grown for its ornamental nature and also for fruits; eaten fresh or after making preserves. Leaves contain small quantity of resin.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 1.

### ***Cinnamomum camphora***

Camphor tree

Bengali : *Karpoor*, Hindi : *Kapur*, Sanskrit : *Karpuram*

A native of China, Japan and Taiwan. The generic name is an ancient Greek name. The species has been named indicating source of camphor.

An evergreen ornamental tree with shining leaves, aromatic when crushed. Flowers inconspicuous. Fruits small, globose, dark green in colour, ripen in October and turn black after ripening. Flowering in March-April. Propagation by seeds, layers, branch cuttings, root cuttings and root suckers but mostly from seeds.

***Cinnamomum camphora*** (L.) Nees & Eberm.

Family : Lauraceae

Grown in gardens as economic and ornamental plant.

Oil cells of the tree parts are source of camphor oil, which has extensive commercial and medicinal importance.

Location : Plot 4, Population : 1.

### ***Cinnamomum tamala***

Indian Cassia

Bengali : *Tejpata*, Hindi : *Tejpat*

A native of the Himalaya and Myanmar.

A medium sized evergreen tree. Leaves pointed, shining, green above and pale below with three prominent nerves, young leaves pink. Flowers small, yellowish-white, in short open cluster. Flowering in Feb-March. Propagation by air-layering and seeds.

***Cinnamomum tamala*** (Buch.-Ham.)

Nees Eberm

Family : Lauraceae

Grown in gardens as a spice plant. Aromatic leaves are chiefly used in curries.

Location : plot 3, Population : 1.

## *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*

Cinnamon

Bengali : *Dalchini*, Hindi : *Dalchini*

The scientific name refers to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) where the tree grows naturally.

An evergreen dwarf tree which does not become totally leafless at any time of the year. Height upto 6m. Leaves large, thick, pointed at tip, shining green, 3-5 main nerves on the surface running from the base to tip. Young leaves are red in colour and turn to green on age. Flowers minute, green, in large hairy cluster.

<i>Cinnamomum zeylanicum</i> Blume
Family : Lauraceae
Leaf : Leaves ovate, leathery

Location : Plot : 3. Population : 1 .

## *Citharexylum quadrangulare*

A native of West Indies. Quadrangulare means 'square' in allusion to the shape of young stem.

A tree with straight trunk, 6-7m high, drooping branches, branchlets four-angled. Leaves 16 cm long, 3 cm broad. Flowers white in colour, highly scented, minute, in pendulous clusters, 10-15 cm long, bloom turns outwards from the central stalk. Flowering in March-May and beginning of rains. Propagation by stem cuttings.

<i>Citharexylum quadrangulare</i> Jacq.
Syn. : <i>C. spinosum</i> L.
Family : Verbenaceae
Leaf : Opposite, elliptic-oblong, glabrous, nearly entire
Flower : In drooping racemes

Grown in the garden for scented flowers.

Location : Plots 4, 6, 8. Population : 3.

## *Citrus sp.*

Citron, Lemon, Orange

Bengali : *Lebu*, Hindi : *Nimbu*.

A native of tropical and subtropical Asia and the Malayan archipelago. The generic name refers to an ancient name of a fragrant African wood, afterwards transferred to Citron.

Small evergreen aromatic shrubs and trees with thorny branches widely found in the tropical and temperate parts of the world and grown mainly for edible fruits and attractive foliage and flower. Leaves compound, apparently simple. Flowers cluster or simple, white or pinkish purple in colour. Flowering

***Citrus sp.***

Family : Rutaceae  
Leaf : Leaves unifoliate  
Flower : Flowers in the axils of leaves or in lateral or terminal cymes or panicles

season varies with species. Propagated by seeds, layerings and buddings.

Citrus fruits are edible and provide commercial products including essential oils, pectine and citric acids. In general products of Citrus Sp. have medicinal properties.

Location : Plots 6. Population : 1 (grove).

### 1. *Citrus aurantifolia*

Lime, Sour lime

Bengali : *Patilebu, Kagzilebu*, Hindi : *Nimbu*

An evergreen smooth tall shrub or small tree. Usually very spinous, much branched. Leaves thin, narrowed at the base, 5 cm diameter, scented. Round

***Citrus grandis*** Osbeck.

Syn. : *C. decumana. C. maxima.*  
Family : Rutaceae  
Leaf : Leaves ovate or ovate-elliptic

fruited variety is known as patinimbu, oval fruited variety is known as kagzinimbu. A number of varieties are grown differing chiefly in the size, shape and colour of the fruits. Flowering more or less round the year but principally in hot seassson.

Propagation by air-layering.

Fruits used as a source of vitamin 'C' in the treatment of indigestion and to control vomiting.

Location: 3, 6. Population : 6.

### 2. *Citrus grandis*

Pomelo, Shaddock

Bengali : *Batabilebu*, Hindi : *Batavi nimbu; Chakotra*

The word pomelo is a contraction of 'pomum melo' meaning 'melon apple'. The name Shaddock is after a captain who introduced the fruits from Malaya into the West Indies.

***Citrus grandis*** Osbeck.

Syn. : *C. decumana. C. maxima.*  
Family : Rutaceae  
Leaf : Leaves ovate or ovate-elliptic

An evergreen dwarf, round-headed tree. Young shoots with hairy leaf, base rounded, dark-green, upto 15 cm. long; petiole broadly winged, 2 cm. long.

Flowers pure white, sweet scented. Fruits 12-20 cm. diam. globose, yellow when ripe, pulp pink or pale yellow, sweet acid scented. Flowering in Feb-March. Propagated by air-layering.

The fruit juice is occasionally employed in the treatment of fever and jaundice.

Location : Plots 3, 6. Population : 5.

### 3. *Citrus limon*

Lemon

Bengali : *Gandharajlebu*, Hindi : *Bara nimbu*, *Pahari nimbu*

A straggling and thorny tall shrub or dwarf tree. Leaves broad, short, wingless; leaf-stalk highly scented with well known lemon odour and pale dots marking the position of oil glands. Flowers pinkish-white in colour. Fruits egg-shaped and highly lemon scented, pale yellow when ripe.

Flowering more or less throughout the year, Propagated by air-layering.

A few plants are grown in the garden for fruits. The juice is used for medicinal purpose and for making drinks, lemon squash etc.

<i>Citrus limon</i> (L.) Burm. f.
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Family : Rutaceae
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The other variety grown in the garden, known as Jamburi, a rough lemon, is a hybrid with rough and somewhat loose skinned fruits, big and different in appearance from lemon, excessive sour in taste.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 2.

### 4. *Citrus sinensis*

Sweet orange

Bengali : *Musambi*, Hindi : *Malta*, *Musambi*

A dwarf evergreen tree native to South China with spreading branches forming a dense and bushy crown. Young shoots greenish-white. Leaves upto 15 cm. long, pointed tips, broadest near the rounded base, petiole narrowly winged.

<i>Citrus sinensis</i> (L.) Osbeck
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Family : Rutaceae
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Leaf : Leaves ovate, acute
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Flowers white in colour, petals long, 4-5, waxy. Fruits globose, rounded at the apex, golden yellow when ripe, pulp yellowish, fairly sweet. Flowers in hot season. Propagation by air-layering.

Cultivated in gardens as a fruit plant.

Location : Plot 6, Population : 3.

### ***Clusia rosea***

Tree balsam, Fat pork tree.

A native of West Indies, Panama and Venezuela. The generic name is probably after Carolus Clusius, a Dutch botanist ( 1526 - 1609 ) and species after its flower colouration.

A small or medium sized round headed evergreen tree with large, thick, fleshy, dark green, semi-orbicular leaves. Flowers large, white, balsam - like with a large rose centre. Flowering sporadic, usually in June - July. Propagation by seeds.

***Clusia rosea*** Jacq.

Family : Clusiaceae

Cultivated in gardens as ornamental tree and also along roadsides and avenues.

Location : Plot 3, Population : 1.

### ***Cochlospermum religiosum***

Yellow silk cotton tree, Torchwood tree, Butter cup tree

Bengali : *Sonali simul, Gogol, Gabdi*, Hindi : *Gabadi, Gangal, Gejra*

A native of India. The generic name is derived from two Greek words kochlos (shell) and sperma (seed) referring to the twisted shell sheltering the seeds. The species indicates its association with religion or religious places.

***Cochlospermum religiosum*** ( L.) Alston.

Family : Cochlospermaceae

A small to medium sized soft wooded deciduous tree with a heavy head of branching. Scars of fallen leaves are found in young branches. Leaves 3-6 lobed, simple, at the end of branches. Flowers cup-shaped, yellow, borne at the end of stems in terminal clusters.

Pods (Fruits), pear-shaped; pendulous. Flowering in early spring (February - March). Propagation by seeds.

Grows as ornamental garden plant. Floss used for pillows, cushions etc. Dried leaves and flowers are stimulant. Flowers used in worship. The trees are very common near Buddhist temples.

Location : Plots 3, 4, 7, 8; Population : 5.

### ***Colvillea racemosa***

Colville's glory

Bengali : *Colvillea*, Hindi : *Kilbli*

A native of Madagascar. It is named after Sir Charles Colville, once Governor of Mauritius. This genus contains one species only, *racemosa* meaning with flowers in racemes or clusters like bunches of grapes.

A tall tree, about 16-18m high, deciduous, branches spread less widely. The feathery leaves are much larger, closely resembles *Delonix regia*, bipinnate, 1m long, pinnae 20-25 pairs, 10 cm long,

<b><i>Colvillea racemosa</i></b> Boj. ex Hook.
Family : Caesalpiniaceae
Leaf : Bipinnate
Flower : In large spikes or drooping racemes

leaflets 20-28 pairs, 1 cm long, flowers borne in dense, conelike large clusters at the end of the branches. Flowers orange, stamens yellow.

Flowering in August-September. Propagation by seeds. Grown in the garden for beautiful flowers.

Location : Plot 4. Population : 1.

### ***Cordia sebestena***

Aloe wood, Sebesten plum, Geiger tree

Bengali : *Raktarag*, Hindi : *Bohari, Bhokar, Lal lasoora*

A native of Cuba, West Indies and Florida. The genus name is after Valerius Cordus, a German botanist. The species is from a Persian name.

Tall evergreen shrub or small tree. Leaves simple and in clusters, egg-shaped. Flowers funnel-shaped, bright orange-red, borne in loose clusters at the ends of branches. Flowering throughout the year especially in spring and summer.

<b><i>Cordia sebestena</i></b> L.
Family : Boraginaceae

Propagation by seeds, cuttings and air-layerings. Cultivated in parks and gardens as ornamental plant.

Location : Plot 8, Population : 1.

### ***Couroupita guianensis***

Cannon ball tree

Bengali : *Nagalingam, Kamangola*, Hindi : *Nagalingam, Tope gola, Shivalingam*

A native of tropical South America. The generic name indicates round fruit like human heads. The species refers to its place of origin.

A large tree with a narrow spreading crown. Leaves produced in whorls at branch ends. Flowers emerge from trunks in long clusters, showy, reddish, often with a combination of colour shades, scented. Fused stamens at the centre of flower resemble a hooded snake. Fruit globular like cannon balls. Flowering almost throughout the year. Propagation by seeds.

***Couroupita guianensis*** Aubl.

Family : Lecythidaceae

Often planted in a big garden as a curious ornamental tree. Hard shell used as utensil.

Location : Plots 1, 2,4, 5; Population : 12.

### ***Dalbergia lanceolaria***

Bengali : *Chakemdia*, Hindi : *Takoli, Bithua*

It is spread throughout India and also in the tropical regions all over the world. The generic name recalls the memory of N. Dalberg, a Swedish botanist. The species is named after its lancet-like pods.

A tall deciduous tree with somewhat buttressed stem. Leaves compound with 7-13 leaflets. Flowers small, mainly in axillary bunches, pale mauve in colour, initiating in leafless condition. Flowering in summer. Propagation generally by seeds or may be by cuttings in mist.

It is liked for its ornamental foliage and beautiful flowers.

Location : Plot 4, Population :1.

***Dalbergia lanceolaria*** L. f.

Family : Fabaceae

Flower : In axillary panicles

The other species of *Dalbergia* found here is *D. sissoo* Roxb. (Bengali : *Sissoo*, English : Indian blackwood), is a native of India and Afghanistan.

It is a familiar roadside tree producing hard timber used for making furniture and implements. Medicinally used in leprosy, boils and skin eruptions.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 1.

### ***Delonix regia***

Flamboyant, Flame tree, Royal Poinciana

Bengali : *Golmohor*, Hindi : *Gulmohor*

A native of Madagascar. Generic name is from two Greek words - 'delos' and 'onux' indicating conspicuous claws relating to claw-shaped petals; the species name 'regia' means royal in Latin, given for its most beautiful flowers.

A large deciduous tree with spreading branches forming a thick canopy at the top. Leaves feathery with innumerable leaflets. Flowers, orchid like with scarlet petals, in clusters at the end of branches. Flowering in summer and early monsoon. Propagation by seeds.

<p><b><i>Delonix regia</i></b> (Boj.) Raf. Syn. : <i>Poinciana regia</i> (Boj.) Raf Family : Caesalpiniaceae Flower : Flowers in racemes.</p>
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It is planted in gardens and avenues for its colourful flowers and feathery foliage.

Location : Plots 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8.

Population : 16.

### ***Delonix regia***

Yellow, peacock-flower

Bengali : *Halud gulmohar*, Hindi : *Haldi gulmohor*

A very uncommon and beautiful variety of *D. regia*. The tree and its leaves are very alike to that of *D. regia*. Flowers golden-yellow. Flowering in April-May. Propagation by seeds.

A pair of seedlings planted in the garden in July' 1995, started blooming since April, 2000.

The garden has also one other species viz, *Delonix elata* (L.) Gamble

<p><b><i>Delonix regia</i></b> (Boj) Raf. 'Yellow' Family : Caesalpiniaceae</p>
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(*Poinciana elata* L.), a native of tropical Africa which bears whitish yellow flowers.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 2.

## ***Dillenia indica***

Elephant apple

Bengali : *Chalta*, Hindi : *Chalta*

It is named by Linnaeus in honour of J. J. Dillenius, a professor and botanist of Oxford, 'indica' means of India or a native of India.

An evergreen tree of moderate size upto 8m high straight trunk and spreading branches, dense and round headed. Leaves 25-30 cm long, serrate, hard, hairy with conspicuous veins. Flowers large, solitary, 15 cm diam, white, pale green, thick and fleshy forming an outer covering for the large spherical fruits which contain seeds. Flowering in June-July. Propagation by seeds.

<b><i>Dillenia indica</i></b> L.
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Syn. : <i>D. speciosa</i> Thunb.
Family : Dilleniaceae
Leaf : Lanceolate
Flower : Sepals 5, petals 5

Fleshy sepals surrounding the fruit ripen in September-October, have a pleasant acid taste, eaten either raw or cooked, chiefly in curries. The fruit has some medicinal value also.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 1.

## ***Diospyros discolor***

Mabola persimmon, Butter fruit

Bengali : *Biliti gab*, Hindi : *Vilaiti gab*

A native of the Philippines. The generic name is in two splits viz., 'Dios' for divine and 'Puros' for grain alluding to its edible fruit. The species refers to variations in colour of leaves and fruits.

<b><i>Diospyros discolor</i></b> Willd.
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Family : Ebenaceae
Leaf : Alternate, entire
Flower : In axillary cymes

A medium evergreen tree with dense foliage. Flowers in bunches, yellowish or whitish. Fruiting from June to September.

Propagated by seeds, cuttings, layers and grafting.

A good shade tree suitable for roadside plantation. Fruits edible.

Location : Plots 2, 6. Population : 5.

## ***Diospyros malabarica***

Indian persimmon

Bengali : *Gab, Tendu, Makurkendi*, Hindi : *Gab, Kalatendu, Makurkendi*,  
Sanskrit : *Tinduka, Krishnasara, Virupaka*

A native of tropical Africa. The species' name means strange or foreign, probably an exotic in the country from which the species was described.

Moderate evergreen tree with long shining green leaves, leaf colour bright red when first produced. Fruits large, velvety. Fruiting in June - July. Propagation by fresh seeds.

<p><b><i>Diospyros malabarica</i></b> (Desr.) Kostel Syn. : <i>D. embryopteris</i> Pers., <i>D. peregrina</i> (Gaertn.) Gurke Family : Ebenaceae</p>
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A shade bearing tree cultivated for ornament. Ripe fruit not very palatable. Pulp of unripe fruit is viscid and used for dyeing nets of fishermen and making them more durable; also

used as glue for book binding. Medicinally used for treating wounds and ulcers, diarrhea and dysentery.

Location : Plot 2. Population : 1.

## ***Drypetes roxburghii***

Child-life tree, Indian amulet plant, Wild olive, Lucky bean tree

Bengali : *Putranjiva, Jiaputa*, Hindi : *Putija, Juti, Putranjiva*

A native of Indo - Malayan region. The generic name is probably of Greek origin referring to drupe indicating the characteristic of the fruit. The species name is given in honour of Sir William Roxburgh, often called the Father of

<p><b><i>Drypetes roxburghii</i></b> (Wall.) Hurusawa Syn. : <i>Putranjiva roxburghii</i> Wall Family : Euphorbiaceae</p>
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Indian Botany.

A moderate evergreen tree cultivated in the tropics. Leaves dark green in drooping branches. Male flowers small, yellowish; female flowers dark green; fruits globose to ovoid. Flowering in March - April. Propagation by seeds.

Cultivated all over India for ornament and shade. Also grown in gardens as hedges and on roadsides for excellent canopy providing shade.

Location : Plots 1 — 8. Population : 87.

## ***Elaeodendron glaucum***

Bengali : *Chikyeng*, Hindi : *Jamrassi, Dhebri*

A native of tropical Asia. The generic name in Greek refers to olive tree. The species is after the colouration of its bark and fruits.

A medium slow growing deciduous tree with simple, leaves and small inconspicuous, yellowish brown or greenish-white flowers. Flowering in March - April. Propagation by seeds and root suckers.

***Elaeodendron glaucum*** Pers.

Family : Celastraceae

Leaves : Elliptic

Flowers : In axillary cymes.

Sometimes grown as ornamental tree in the garden and also as a shade tree. Powdered leaves used as snuff to relieve headache. The plant yields a gum ( Jamrasi ).

Location : Plot 1. Population : 1.

## ***Emblica officinalis***

Emblic myrobalan, Indian gooseberry

Bengali : *Amla, Amlaki*, Hindi : *Amla, Amlica, Aonla*,

Sanskrit : *Adiphala, Amalaka*

A genus native of India, Sri Lanka, Malaya and China. Wild or cultivated, it is found in many parts of India. The genus is named after its common Indian name. The species indicates its medicinal uses.

A small to medium deciduous tree with feathery leaves. Fruits round and fleshy, green when tender and then changing to light yellow. Flowering in

***Emblica officinalis*** Gaertn.

Syn. : *Phyllanthus emblica* L.

Family : Euphorbiaceae

Leaf : Leaves with pinnate leaflets

September-October. Fruits ripen in winter.

Propagated by seeds, cutting, budding and inarching.

Often cultivated in the gardens. Fruits occasionally eaten raw and also used for making pickles, preserves and jellies. The fruit is probably the richest source of vitamin C. Fruits used in the preparation of writing inks and hair dyes. The dried fruit is used as shampoo. A fixed oil extracted from the fruit promotes hair growth. Used in diarrhea, dysentery, haemorrhage, anaemia, jaundice, cough, cold, asthma, bronchitis and in many other ailments.

*Amla* is one of the three ingredients of the famous Ayurveda medicine 'Triphala' the other two being *harre* and *baheera*.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 2.

## ***Erythrina variegata***

Indian coral tree

Bengali : *Palita mandar, Rakta madar*, Hindi : *Mandara*,

Sanskrit : *Mandar, Parijat*

A native of peninsular India and wild in the forests of India, Andaman and Nicobar islands. *Erythrina* derives from 'erythros' indicating red pointing out the colour of flowers. The species refers to variegated leaves.

### ***Erythrina variegata* L.**

Family : Fabaceae

Leaf : Leaves trifoliolate, broadly ovate, acute

Flower : Flowers in raceme

A tall tree. Leaves with three terminal leaflets articulated at a point. Flowers large, coral red in bunches. Flowering from February to May. Propagation by cuttings and seeds.

Cultivated in gardens and roadsides for beauty of flowers and shade giving quality. Wood used for rafts, floats, canoes etc.

Location : Plots 4, 7. Population : 5.

## ***Euphoria longan***

Longan

Bengali : *Anshphal*, Hindi : *Ansphal*

A native of tropical and subtropical Asia. The generic name signifies a feeling of well-being which probably indicates that the plant carries well its edible fruits. The species is from a Chinese name.

A medium-sized evergreen tree allied to *Litchi* with shining leaflets, red when young. Flowers regular, hairy inside. Fruits of the size of cherry or plum, yellowish red or purple, borne in pendulous clusters. Flowering from March to May and ripening of fruits from June to September.

### ***Euphoria longan* (Lour.) Steud.**

Syn. : *Nephelium longana* Cambe, *E. longana* Lamk.

Family : Sapindaceae

Leaf : Leaves pinnately compound

Propagation by seeds and inarching.

Cultivated as an ornamental and shade tree. The fruit considered as a nutrient, is like *Litchi* but somewhat smaller. The aril is eaten fresh. Seeds sometimes used for washing hair. The wood is used for posts, agricultural implements, furniture and building purposes. Leaves and flowers are also considered medicinally useful.

Location : Plots 3, 4. Population : 3.

### ***Ficus benghalensis***

Banyan tree

Bengali : *Bat, Bot*, Hindi : *Bargad, Barh*, Sanskrit : *Bahupada, Vata*

Indigenous in the sub-Himalayan forests and in peninsular India. The generic name is the ancient Latin name for the figs. The species refers to its place of origin in Bengal.

A large slow growing tree with spreading branches and numerous aerial roots which ultimately support the branches. Leaves egg-shaped. Flowers enclosed in a small spherical cavity. Fruits scarlet when ripe giving the tree an attractive look. Flowering in February - March continuing up to October - November or throughout the year.

***Ficus benghalensis* L.**

Syn : *F. indica* L.

Family : Moraceae

Leaf : Ovate to elliptic

Flower : Flowers in spherical hypanthodea

Fruit : Sessile and sub-globose

Propagation by seeds and cuttings.

The tree is a magnificent shade tree grown in parks,

gardens and roadsides. It is very intimately related to Hindu mythology. Ripe fruits are sometimes eaten. Leaves used for fodder. The milky juice applied for pains, bruises and toothache. Bark used in diarrhoea, dysentery and diabetes. Seeds and fruits are cooling and serve as a tonic .

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8. Population : 17.

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Banyan Tree:

During the life time of the Buddha the tree is said to have been worshipped on the new moon day of "Jaistha" (May-June) for begetting children. The festival is also called "Vat-Savitri" as according to mythology Savitri worshipped the tree on this day to save the life of her husband Satyavan. (R. P. N. Sinha : *Our Trees*)

Other species of *Ficus* grown in this garden are :

1. *F. benjamina* L. : A native of tropical Asia and Malaya with small egg-shaped (ovate-elliptic) leaves, not so important tree horticulturally. (Location : Plots 4, 7; Population : 3).

2. *F. elastica* Roxb. ex Hornem. (India rubber plant) : A handsome evergreen tree, a native of tropical Asia and grown in gardens for majestic growth with pretty ornamental leaves and numerous aerial roots.

Epiphytic in young stage. Used for outdoor plantation in the garden and also for indoor decoration. Location : Plots 1, 2, 3. Population : 3.

3. *F. hispida* L.f. (Bengali : *Dumoor*, Hindi : *Dadun*): Indigenous to Asia and tropical Africa. A small tree or shrub with large opposite leaves, entire or toothed and yellowish. Clustered fruits on leafless branchlets. Fruits edible when ripe and made into jam. Immature fruits eaten in curries. Leaves and twigs are used for fodder.

Location : Plot 1. Population : 3.

4. *F. racemosa* L. (Syn. : *F. glomerata* Roxb.) Bengali : *Dumur*, *Jagya dumbar*; English ; Cluster Fig, Gular). A moderate to large tree with dark green leaves and clustered edible fruits seen generally from March to June. A native of India and Myanmar. Very useful in stomach complaints. Location : Plots 3,4,9. Population : 3.

5. *F. religiosa* L. (Bengali : *Ashathwa*, English : *Peepal tree*, *Bo-tree*, Hindi : *Pipal*, Sanskrit : *Ashvatha*): Indigenous to India. A large handsome spreading tree, sacred to the Hindus and Buddhists. Grown wild or cultivated throughout India. Suitable for avenue and roadside plantations. Raised by seeds and sometimes by cuttings. The Buddha\* received enlightenment under one such tree at Bodh Gaya. Location : Plots 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Population : 17.

6. *F. retusa* L. var. *nitida* Thunb: Medium, slowgrowing, evergreen tree forming a compact head. A Native of tropical Asia and Malaya bearing few aerial roots and yellow or reddish stalkless fruits.

Location : Plot 4. Population : 1.

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\*The entire life span of the Buddha was associated with trees and gardens. He was born in Lumbini park under a 'Bodhi tree' (*Ficus religiosa*) and died in a garden flanked by trees. Another legend has it that the Buddha was born under a 'Simul' tree (*Bombax ceiba*).

7. *F. rumphii* Blume (Horse peepul, Gayaaswat) : A native of Himalaya and Malay. A small or medium sized tree having leaf end much shorter than *F. religiosa*. Not so important as an ornamental tree.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8. Population : 32.

8. *F. virens* Ait. (Pakur). A native of India. A common avenue tree. Also grown in gardens for shade

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 ; Population : 7.

### *Filicium decipiens*

Fern tree

A native of Western India, Sri Lanka and Eastern tropical Africa. *Filicium* is from Latin '*filices*' meaning ferns with which the leaves have resemblance and '*decipiens*' in Latin means deceptive or misleading owing to the difficulty in classification of this tree.

***Filicium decipiens* Thw.**

Family : Sapindaceae  
Leaf : Leaves paripinnate, leaflets narrowly elliptic, opposite, rachis broadly winged between each pair of leaflets.  
Flower : Flowers in narrow panicles.

A handsome, slow-growing, evergreen tree, 8-9 m high with compact habit of growth and form.

Leaves resemble the leaves of fern, leaflets 12-16, glossy, 10-15 cm long, narrowing towards base. Flowers white, minute, unisexual, in clusters. Fruits 1cm diam, ripening in March-April. Flowering in February-March. Propagation by air-layering.

Grown in the garden for beautiful fern like foliage.

Location : Plot 2. Population : 1.

### ***Gliricidia sepium***

Nicaraguan shade tree, Madre tree

Bengali : *Saranga, Biliti siris*

A native of tropical America. The generic name indicates rodent poison. Introduced in India as a shade tree primarily. The species indicates its use for hedges or fencings.

A fast growing, deciduous, spreading tree with large leaves and shining leaflets, bright green above, lighter beneath. Flowers pinkish purple or pale pink or white borne in dense clusters in leafless condition.

<p><b><i>Gliricidia sepium</i></b> (Jacq.) Kunth ex Steud. Syn. : <i>G. maculata</i> (H. B. &amp; K.) Steud. Family : Fabaceae Leaf : Imparipinnate</p>
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It is largely used as a shade tree in cocoa and tea plantations. Leaves valued for green manuring. Flowers a good source of nectar. Wood durable.

Location : Plots 1, 4, 5, 6. Population : 5.

### ***Gmelina arborea***

White teak, Candahar tree

Bengali : *Gamar, Gamari*, Hindi : *Gambhar, Kambhari, Jugani-chukur*.

A native of India and Myanmar. The genus is named after J. G. Gmelin, a German botanist (1709-55) and '*arborea*' is a Latin name meaning in the form of a tree.

A large deciduous tree with straight trunk, smooth whitish bark and spreading branches upto 30 m high. Leaves 15-20 cm long, 10-12 cm broad smooth above when mature. Flowers in clusters, brownish-yellow, 5 lobed, 3-4 cm long, at the end of the branches. Fruits smooth, pear-shaped berry, orange-yellow when ripe.

<p><b><i>Gmelina arborea</i></b> L. Family : Verbenaceae Leaf : Leaves opposite, broadly ovate or cordate, acuminate, tawny tomentose beneath. Flower : Flowers in terminal panicle</p>
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Flowering in February-April.  
Propagation by seeds.

The wood is very durable and valued for furniture, door panels and ornamental work. The fruit is sour and used as tonic to promote the growth of hair.

Location : Plots 1,6. Population : 3.

## ***Gmelina philippensis***

Hedgehog

Bengali : *Badhara*, Hindi : *Badhara*

A native of Philippines. The generic name is after J. Gottlieb Gmelin, a German botanist. The species refers to its place of origin.

A small tree with simple leaves, upper surface glossy, lower dark green. Flowers large, showy, yellow or whitish yellow, bell-shaped, in pendulous bunches. Flowering usually from April to August. Propagated by stem cuttings and air-layering.

***Gmelina philippensis*** Cham.

Syn. : *G. hystrix* Schult. ex Kurz.

Family : Verbenaceae

Leaf : Elliptic

Flower : In pendulous cymes.

Cultivated in gardens for beautiful drooping inflorescence. Suitable for planting along fencing

or arches.

Location : Plot 7, Population : 1.

## ***Grevillea robusta***

Silver oak, Silk oak

Bengali : *Rupasi*

A native of Australia. The generic name is after Charles F. Greville, a patron of botany and once Vice President of The Royal Society, England. The species is named for its robust habit.

A large tree with fern like leaves, dark green above and silvery white below. Flowers showy, golden yellow or orange yellow in bunches, very ornamental. Flowering in April - July.

***Grevillea robusta*** A. Cunn.

Family : Proteaceae

Propagation by seeds.

Cultivated in gardens as a specimen of showy ornamental flowering plant. Suitable for avenue plantation. Wood is durable and used for furniture. A source of raw material for paper industry.

Location : Plot 4. Population : 2.

## ***Heritiera littoralis***

Looking glass tree

Bengali : *Sundari*

***Heritiera littoralis*** Dryand.

Family : Sterculiaceae  
Leaf : Leaves entire, oblong  
Flowers : In axillary panicles

A native of Asia, Africa and Pacific Islands. The genus is named after a French botanist, Charles Louis L'Heritier de Brutelle. The species refers to its growing habitat.

A large tree with fairly thick trunk, buttressed with simple, thick leaves, lower surface covered with shining fimbriate scales. Flowers in axillary bunches, small, unisexual, golden yellow in colour. Flowering from March to May. Propagation by seeds.

It grows abundantly in tropical sea coasts. The Sundarban is said to be named after this species which makes the area extremely beautiful during the flowering season. The wood is hard and used in preparing country boats, agricultural tools and furniture.

Location : Plot 4. Population : 1.

## ***Holarrhena pubescens***

Easter tree, Ivory tree

Bengali : *Kurchi*, Hindi : *Kuruchi*, *Kutaja* Sanskrit : *Kutaja*, *Pandura*

A native of India and tropical Asia. The generic name is derived from two Greek words, 'Holos' ( the whole) and 'Arrhen' (man). The species (antidysenterica) refers to its chief medicinal use.

A small to medium tree with pale green, egg-shaped leaves. Flowers white, in large terminal bunches, highly fragrant. Flowering takes place from summer to monsoon ( April - July), sometimes extending to autumn. Propagation by seeds and stem cuttings. The species has a number of medicinal value and is also extensively cultivated in gardens and parks as a flowering ornamental plant.



<p><b><i>Holarrhena pubescens</i></b> ( Buch. - Ham.) Wall. ex Don Syn : <i>H. antidysenterica</i> Wall. ex DC. Family : Apocynaceae</p>
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Dried bark (Kurchi) used in amoebic dysentery and diarrhoea. Seeds used in diarrhoea, dysentery and intestinal worms.

Location : Plot 6. Population : 1.

### ***Ixora parviflora***

Torch tree

The genus '*Ixora*' owes its name from 'Ikvara'. The species '*parviflora*' means 'with small flowers'. It is a native of India and grows wild in the western peninsula.

<p><b><i>Ixora parviflora</i></b> Vahl Syn. <i>I. arborea</i> Roxb. ex Sm. Family : Rubiaceae</p>
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Much branched small trees with oblong, dark green leaves and sweet scented white flowers in clusters. Ripe fruits are eaten by some tribals.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 4, 6. Population : 17.

### ***Jacaranda mimosifolia***

Green ebony, Fern tree

Bengali and Hindi : *Neel gulmohar*

A native of Argentina and Brazil. The generic name owes to a Brazilian vernacular name. The species denotes *Mimosa* - like feathery leaves.

A handsome, medium sized deciduous tree with leaves having elegant, finely cut foliage. Flowers bluish mauve or blue-purple in axillary or terminal sprays. Flowering from late spring to early summer. Propagation by seeds or semi-hard wood stem cuttings.

The plant with *Mimosa* — like graceful foliage coupled with excellent flower

<p><b><i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i></b> D. Don Syn. : <i>J. ovalifolia</i> R. Br. Family : Bignoniaceae Leaf : Leaves bipinnate Flowers : In axillary or terminal panicles</p>
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colouration, is a spectacular flowering species for gardens and avenues. Leaves and stem barks are known to be used for treatment of syphilis.

Location : Plots 2, 4; Population : 2.

## ***Juniperus chinensis***

Chinese juniper

A native of China. The genus bears an ancient Latin name. The species refers to its place of origin.

An evergreen ornamental tree or shrub with slender branches and spreading and pointed leaves. Male plants upright, bushy, pyramidal and generously branched. The female ones with slender spreading branches. Fruits brownish violet. Propagation by seeds and cuttings of almost ripened stems.

***Juniperus chinensis* L.**

Family : Cupressaceae  
Leaf : Leaves opposite  
or whorled

Cultivated as ornamental trees and shrubs in gardens for foliage and form. The male plants are used in ornamental horticulture.

Location : Plots 3, 4. Population : 2.

## ***Kleinhovia hospita***

Tree antigonon

Bengali : *Bola*, Hindi : *Bhola*

A native of tropical Africa and Malaya. The genus is named after Dr. C. Kleinhoff, a Dutch botanist. In Latin '*hospita*' means hospitable as the tree gives shelter to a number of insects.

A medium or large evergreen tree. Leaves simple, egg-shaped or heart shaped, dark green in colour. Flowers small, pink, in terminal clusters, very much alike to those of a climber, *Antigonon*. Flowering from early summer to late autumn.

***Kleinhovia hospita* L.**

Family : Sterculiaceae  
Leaf : Ovate, cordate  
Flower : In terminal panicles

Propagation by seeds, stem cuttings or air-layering.

The tree is very suitable as an avenue tree. The wood is used for preparing handles for tools, knives etc.

The fibres obtained from the bark is used for rope making.

Location : Plots 1, 2. Population : 3.

## *Lagerstroemia speciosa*

Queen's crepe-myrtle, Pride of India; Queen of flowers

Bengali : *Jarul, Ajar*, Hindi : *Jahrool*

A native of India. The genus is in memory of Magnus Lagerstroem, a Swedish friend of Linnaeus and a patron of science. The species indicates the beauties of flowers.

An elegant deciduous tree with greyish bark which separates out in irregular flakes. Leaves large, simple, lance-shaped, green on both surfaces. Flowers in long bunches in various shades of purple, lilac, rose or violet, changing quickly. Flowering in early summer, and a second flush comes in early monsoon. Propagation by seeds only. Treatment with root promoting substances induce rooting in stem cuttings under mist conditions or during rainy seasons.

Grown in parks, gardens and avenues as an ornamental flowering tree for the delightful look when in bloom with innumerable flowers having crepe like surface of the petals. The species is called the 'Queen of flowers' for the charm of its flowers which bloom in large clusters having different shades of colour in the same cluster. The plant is reputed for its various medicinal properties. The mature leaves and ripe fruits are reported to be used amongst tribals for diabetes. The seeds possess narcotic properties. The timber is also durable and much in

*Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L.) Pers.

Syns. : *L. flos-reginae* Retz., *L. reginae* Roxb.

Family : Lythraceae

use. It occupies a close place to teak for its hardness and durability. It is used in boat-building, house construction, railway sleepers, flooring, interior fittings and decorations, agricultural implements and for tool handles. Bark and leaves are purgative.

Location : Plots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Population : 19.

Other species of *Lagerstroemia* found in the garden are :

**1. *Lagerstroemia lancasteri*** Hort. A species named in honour of Percy Lancaster, an amateur horticulturist who contributed much to the cause of gardening and horticulture in India.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 1.

2. *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L.) Pers. 'Rosea' Syn. : *L. flos-reginae* Retz. var. *Rosea*.

A very beautiful flowering tree like *L. speciosa* but of shorter height and small leaves. Leaves ovate elliptic, obtuse, 11-16 cm long, 5-8 cm broad. Flowers in smaller spike, bright rose colour, carmine stripes on the side and red apex. Flowering in May-June. Propagation by seeds.

Location : Plot : 7. Population - 1.

3. *Lagerstroemia thorelii* Pierre. (English : Queen's flower, Hindi : *Bari sanwani*)

A native of Cochin China\*. The species is named after Claude Antoine Thory, a French botanist of distinction.

A dwarf tree with bushy crown and narrow leaves having blunt points. Flowers borne in large, open clusters are lilac in colour fading to white. Flowering starts after or during monsoon and continues upto late autumn. Propagation by seeds or cuttings.

Location : Plots 4, 8. Population : 2.

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\*Cochin China : Formerly French colony at South-East Asia, content within South Vietnam after 1954. [ Ref : Collin's Encyclopedia, Oxford press publication 1977.]

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### *Litchi chinensis*

Litchi, Leechee

Bengali : *Leechu*, Hindi : *Lichi*

A native of China. The genus is from a Chinese name. The species refers to its place of origin.

A small to medium sized tree of spreading habit and bearing edible fruits. Leaves compound with 2- 4 pair of leaflets, lustrous above. Flowers small and inconspicuous in terminal bunches, greenish white. Ripe fruits sweet and edible.

*Litchi chinensis* Sonn.

Syn. : *Nephelium litchi* Camb.

Family : Sapindaceae

Leaf : Leaves elliptic-oblong or lanceolate

Fruiting during pre summer and summer months (March - June).

Propagation by gootee, grafting and seeds.

A very widely cultivated fruit plant in tropical and subtropical gardens. Arils (edible part of the fruit) preserved by canning with syrups. Seeds used in China and India for intestinal troubles.

Location : Plot 4. Population : 1.

## ***Litsea glutinosa***

Litsea

Bengali : *Kukur chita*, Hindi : *Maida lakri*, *Garbijour*

A native of Asia, Australia and Pacific Islands. The genus and species names are of Japanese origin. The specific name is indicative of the presence of sticky substances in the ripe berries.

<p><b><i>Litsea glutinosa</i></b> (Lour.) C. B. Robinson Syn. : <i>L. chinensis</i> Lam., <i>L. sebifera</i> Pers. Family : Lauraceae Leaf : Leaves alternate, coriaceous, elliptic-ovate or oblong-lanceolate Flower : Flowers in umbellate heads</p>
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A fast growing tree of medium height. Leaves handsome, lance-shaped and aromatic. Flowers small, yellowish in groups.

Flowering in June -

July. Propagation by seeds or by coppice shoots.

The tree is of little horticultural importance. The wood is used for furniture. Ground or pasted materials applied in wounds, sprains and gouty joints. Leaves and roots are known to have medicinal properties. Fruits edible.

Location : Plots 1,2,4,5,6,7,8. Population : 12.

## ***Madhuca indica***

Mahwa tree, Butter tree

Bengali : *Mohua*, *Mahula*, Hindi : *Mahua*, *Mauwa*, Sanskrit : *Madhuka*

Indigenous to central India, Gujarat, Western Ghats and Chotanagpur. The genus is from the Sanskrit name while the species refers to its native place.

A large deciduous tree with spreading crown. Leaves clustered at branch ends. Flowers rusty, hairy, drooping, in dense fascicles near branch ends, scented. Fruits ovoid, fleshy and hairy, greenish changing to reddish yellow or orange

<p><b><i>Madhuca indica</i></b> J. F. Gmel. Syn. : <i>M. latifolia</i> Macb., <i>Bassia latifolia</i> Roxb. Family : Sapotaceae Leaf : Simple, elliptical Flower : Pubescent</p>
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when ripe. Flowering in early summer. Propagation by seeds.

Grown in big gardens as specimen tree. Flowers edible, raw or cooked. A

country liquor is obtained by soaking and distillation of dried flowers. Fruits eaten by some tribal communities. Seeds yield an oil used for lighting and manufacture of soaps. It is also a valuable source of timber.

Location : Plots 1, 3, 4, 6, 8. Population : 10.

## ***Magnolia grandiflora***

Great laurel magnolia, Bull bay, Lily tree

Bengali : *Magnolia, Biliti champa*, Hindi : *Anda champa, Him champa*.

A native of north America. The genus is named in honour of Pierre Magnol, a director of the Botanic Garden at Montpellier in France. The species refers to its large grand flowers.

***Magnolia grandiflora* L.**

Family : Magnoliaceae

Leaf : Oblong to obovate

An evergreen medium tree. Leaves simple, thick, upper surface glossy, rusty brown beneath.

Flowers solitary, terminal, glossy white changing to cream, sweetly scented. Flowering late spring to summer upto autumn. Propagated by stem cuttings and air-layerings. The species is grown in some gardens as specimen ornamental flowering plant. Leaves and flowers are used in bouquets. The bark has medicinal properties.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.

## ***Mangifera indica***

Mango

Bengali : *Am*, Hindi : *Am, Amb*, Sanskrit : *Amra*

A native of Indo-Malayan region. The generic name owes to a common name-'Mango' given to one of the species. In Latin 'Mangifera' means to bear. The species refers to its place of origin.

An evergreen fruit bearing tree with a dome shaped heavy crown.

***Mangifera indica* L.**

Family : Anacardiaceae

Leaf : Elliptic-lanceolate or linear-oblong.

Flowers : Borne in large terminal or axillary panicles.

Fruits : A drupe with variable sizes.

Flowers reddish white or yellowish green. Flowering behaviour depends on cultivars and locations. Generally the flowering starts at the onset of spring. Biennial bearing is a common

feature of the species. Propagation by grafting or air-layerings. Seed propagation is easy and simple but not in practice as the desired characters are mostly changed.

A very popular edible fruit tree of India. Young and unripe fruits used in curries and pickles. Ripe fruits are refreshing. The juice used as a tonic. Burnt leaf ashes serve as good remedies for burns. Dried flowers used in diarrhoea, dysentery. Mango products are exported and a potential source of foreign exchange earnings.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Population : 66.

### ***Manilkara zapota***

*Sapota, Sapodilla*

Bengali : *Safeda, Chico*, Hindi : *Chiku*

The plant is indigenous to South America and grown all over the world for its edible fruits. The genus is derived from the Greek word for wild pears. The species refers to the Mexican name of the tree.

An evergreen tree of medium height with an attractive spreading crown.

***Manilkara zapota*** (L.) P. Royen

Syn. : *Achras zapota* L., *A.sapota* L.

Family : Sapotaceae

Leaf : Alternate, entire

Flower : Axillary, hermaphrodite

Fruit : A berry

Leaves petioled. Flowers small. Fruits round or oval. Flowering almost throughout the year. Propagated by seeds, layerings, budding and grafting.

A tree with attractive foliage bearing edible fruits. It is often cultivated in gardens. The pulp is delicious. Chicklegum, the base of chewing gum, is extracted from the latex of the tree. Bark and seeds have medicinal properties.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 2.

## ***Michelia champaca***

Yellow champa, Golden champa

Bengali : *Champa*, *Swarna champa*, Hindi : *Champa*, *Champ*,

Sanskrit.: *Champaka*

A native of India. The genus is named after Antonio Micheli, a Florentine botanist. The species is derived from the Sanskrit name of the tree.

A small to medium sized tree with simple, pale green leaves, shining above. Flowers from leaf axils, solitary, fragrant, pale yellow or brownish yellow in colour; buds encased in stipules (paired leafy, lateral appendages at the base of petiole). Flowering starts from late spring and continues throughout the year in varying numbers.

<b><i>Michelia champaca</i> L.</b>
Family : Magnoliaceae
Leaf : Ovate-lanceolate

Propagation by seeds, stem cuttings and air-layerings.

Held sacred by Hindus particularly in South India. Flowers yield an essential oil used in perfumery. Planted in gardens as ornamental flowering tree. It has also a number of medicinal values. The bark, flowers and fruits are stimulants. The root and root bark are used as purgative and also for healing wounds.

*M. champaca* L. var. *alba* Hort. is a free flowering dwarf variety suitable for planting in pots.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 3.

## ***Millettia peguensis***

Jewels on a string, Moulmein rosewood

Bengali : *Tuma*

A native of Myanmar. The genus is named in honour of Dr. J. A. Millett, a botanist who was associated with studies in China. The species refers to its native place.

<b><i>Millettia peguensis</i> Ali</b>
Syn. : <i>M. ovalifolia</i> Kurz.
Family : Fabaceae
Leaf : Imparipinnate
Flower : In axillary racemes

A dwarf, deciduous, flowering tree bearing somewhat drooping branches. Leaves compound. Flowers in drooping

bunches, mauve or lilac in colour, pea- shaped, produced in great abundance and after fall form a carpet-like appearance on the ground. Flowering in early to mid spring in either leafless condition or with tender leaves. Propagation by seeds.

Grown in gardens or planted as an avenue tree.

Location : Plots 3, 4, 6. Population : 7.

### ***Millingtonia hortensis***

Indian cork tree, Tree Jasmine

Bengali : *Akasnim*, Hindi : *Neemchameli*, *Akasnim*

A native of Myanmar and cultivated throughout India. The genus is named after Sir Thomas Millington, a botanist and physician. The species '*hortensis*' in Latin meaning pertains to a garden, as the wild habitat of the species was unknown for a long time.

An elegant, fast growing, hardy tall tree with pyramidal growth and attractive deep green foliage. Flowers

***Millingtonia hortensis*** L. f.

Family : Bignoniaceae

Leaf : Leaves pinnately compound,  
leaflet oval to oval-lanceolate

Flower : In terminal panicles

fragrant, white or pinkish, borne in terminal clusters. Flowering from September to December. Propagation chiefly by seeds and also by cuttings and root suckers.

Grown in big gardens, parks and avenues for attractive form of foliage and fragrant flowers. Wood suitable for making furniture, drawing boards, tea boxes etc.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 6, 7. Population : 17.

Tagore coined the name '*Himjhuri*' for this tree probably due to its beautiful white flowers in terminal clusters.

## ***Mimusops elengi***

Indian medlar, Spanish cherry

Bengali : *Bakul*, Hindi : *Maulsari, Bolsari, Bakul*.

A native of Indian Peninsula, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. *Mimusops*, the generic name is coined from two Greek words ‘mimo’ means ape and ‘opsis’ means in appearance, probably due to resemblance of the flowers to the face of an ape. The species refers to a vernacular epithet in Malabar.

A medium to large evergreen tree with a straight trunk and spreading branches. Leaves dark green, shining, simple, undulate. Flowers dirty white, fragrant, star-shaped. Flowering from April to July, sometimes in other seasons too. Propagated by seeds.

***Mimusops elengi* L.**

Family: Sapotaceae

Leaf : Ovate-lanceolate or oblong

The species is widely grown in parks and gardens in India and also

planted in avenues. The species gives a magnificent look during fruiting season with its cherry-like deep red or scarlet fruits. Flowers used in making garlands and floral ornaments since ancient times. Seeds produce an oil for illumination. Leaves and barks possess medicinal properties.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 6, 7. Population : 17.

## ***Morinda citrifolia***

Indian mulberry

Bengali : *Hardi, Harachand, Ban ach*, Hindi : *Al, Ak, Ach, Bartundi*

A native of Asia and tropical Australia. The generic name originates from the English name i.e. Indian mulberry as the fruits resemble more or less to that of the mulberry. The specific name comes from the resemblance of the leaves to that of *Citrus*.

***Morinda citrifolia* L.**

Family : Rubiaceae

Leaf : Leaves elliptic

A small tree with smooth bark and straight trunk. Leaves bright green . Flowers white, flower heads on solitary stalk. Fruits fleshy, yellowish, white when ripe. Flowering in March - April.

Propagation by seeds.

Grown in gardens as a shade tree. The flowers possess a red and roots a yellow colouring principles. Fruit pulp used for cleansing hair. Fruits are sometimes eaten. Leaves and fruits have medicinal properties.

Location : Plots 1, 3, 4, 7, 8. Population : 13.

### ***Moringa oleifera***

Drumstick tree, Horse radish tree

Bengali : *Sajina*, Hindi : *Shajan, Sahinjna*, Sanskrit : *Shovanjana*

Indigenous to North West India. The generic name is from an altered native Malabar name.

A small to medium tree. Leaves compound, large, leaflets variable in shape and size. Flowers in bunches, white and fragrant. Pods (fruits) greenish, pendulous. Flowering and fruiting during spring and summer. Propagation mostly

***Moringa oleifera*** Lam.

Family : Moringaceae

Leaf : Tripinnate

by stump cuttings, also multiplied by seeds.

Flowers and fruits are used as vegetables and also highly acclaimed for medicinal value.

Seed oil applied in rheumatism and gout. A paste of leaves externally applied on wounds.

Location : Plot 1. Population : 2.

## ***Murraya koenigii***

Curry-leaf tree

Bengali : *Karipata*, Hindi : *Gandhela*, *Mitha-neem*

A native of India and extensively grown everywhere in the country, South India in particular. The species is named after Johann Gerhard Koenig, a reputed taxonomist.

***Murraya koenigii*** (L.) Spreng.

Family : Rutaceae

Leaf : Compound, imparipinnate

Flower : In corymbose panicles

A medium sized pubescent shrub or small tree with narrow leaves. Flowers in terminal bunches, panicles, white in colour. All parts of the plant possess aromatic glands emitting a strong pungent smell. The

leaves are extensively used for flavouring curries and food stuff.

Location : Plots 2, 3, 4. Population : 4.

## ***Nyctanthes arbor-tristis***

Night jasmine, Tree of sorrow

Bengali : *Sheuli*, *Sephalika*, Hindi : *Harsinghar*, Sanskrit : *Sephalika*

A native of India. Two Greek words, 'nux' (night) and 'anthos' (flower) constitute the generic name. The species in Latin indicates dull coloured trees.

A large hardy shrub or small tree of bushy habit with drooping branches and coarse stem bark. Leaves egg-shaped, rough with projecting points above, undersurface coarse and more rough, entire or toothed. Flowers highly fragrant,

***Nyctanthes arbor-tristis*** L.

Family : Oleaceae

Leaf : Leaves opposite, ovate, scabrous above

Flower : In trichotomous cymes

white with orange corolla tube on axillary or terminal bunches, opening late at night and dropping next morning. Flowering from September to January. Propagation by seeds.

The species has been designated as the 'State Flower' of West Bengal. Widely cultivated in temples and private gardens, avoided in public gardens as the species

invariably gives shelter to caterpillars. Flowers offered in worships and used for making garlands, bracelets etc. Petals yield an essential oil. Dye obtained from corolla tubes are used for dyeing cotton and silks. Leaves contain a bitter principle useful in gastro-intestinal disorders. Bark used as tanning material. The plant prefers semi shade conditions.

Location : Plot 4. Population : 2.

### ***Pandanus odoratissimus***

Screw-pine

Bengali : *Keya, Ketaki*, Hindi : *Keura, Kewada, Ketki*, Sanskrit : *Ketaki*

A native of old world tropics. The generic name is a Latinised form of a vernacular name of Malayan origin. The species denotes its very fragrant flowers.

A densely branched, evergreen tree or shrub. Stem rests on adventitious roots known as stilt roots. Leaves green with spines on margins and midribs, sometimes variegated. Male flowers in terminal clusters enclosed in white, fragrant covers. Female flowers fragrant, solitary in dense clusters encircled by whitish leaves. Fruits oblong or spherical like pine apple, green initially but changes to red or yellowish-red on maturity. Flowering in spring and summer,

***Pandanus odoratissimus* L. f.**

Syn. : *P. tectorius* Soland ex Parkinson,  
*P. fascicularis* Lam.  
*P. amaryllifolius* Roxb.  
 Family : Pandanaceae  
 Flower : Male flowers enclosed in spathes  
 Fruits : Oblong or spherical

sometimes in other seasons too. Propagated by seeds or suckers.

Cultivated in gardens for ornamentation and highly scented flowers. Used as house plants in pots. Leaves used for thatching purposes, making ropes, baskets and other fancy items. The flower is the source of

‘Kewda’ essence, a commercial perfume. Flowers yield an essential oil used in a number of domestic purposes. Medicinally used in leprosy, small pox, leucoderma, syphilis and scabies. Also useful in diseases of heart and brain.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.

## ***Parkia biglandulosa***

Parkia

A native of Malaya. The genus is named after Mungo Park. The species refers to its growth habit.

A large handsome, evergreen tree. Leaves showy bearing numerous leaflets. Flowers small, ball-shaped, brown initially turning to white, in obovoid pendant flower heads on long stalks. Flowering in March - April. Propagation by seeds.

***Parkia biglandulosa*** Wt. & Arn.

Family : Mimosaceae  
Leaf : Leaves evenly bipinnate  
Flower : On long peduncles

The plant is grown in gardens as ornamental tree and also on roadsides as avenue tree. Fruit pulp is reported to be edible. Pollen mixed with water

makes a refreshing drink.

Location : Plot 1. Population : 1.

## ***Parmentiera cereifera***

Candle tree

Bengali : *Mom brikshya*, Hindi : *Mom batti*

A native of Panama. The generic name is given after Antony Augustus Parmentier who introduced potato cultivation in France. The species in Latin means wax bearing.

A small spreading tree. Leaves very ornamental, light green in colour.

***Parmentiera cereifera*** Seem

Family : Bignoniaceae  
Leaf : Leaves trifoliate

Flowers creamy white or greenish white on large branches or trunks in drooping clusters. Fruits long, cylindrical, smooth and white resembling pale yellow wax candles. Flowering in summer. Propagation by seeds.

Grown in gardens for its ornamental candle like fruits.

Location : Plots 1, 6. Population : 2.

## ***Peltophorum pterocarpum***

Braziletto wood, Copper pod

Bengali : *Arunjyoti*

A native of Sri Lanka. The genus, a Greek name indicating shield referring to the shape of stigma. The species possibly refers to its flat, thin and winged seeds.

A very handsome tree with spreading crown. Leaves feathery with many small deep green leaflets. Flowers in large terminal panicles, fragrant, deep yellow. Fruits in flat pods, reddish brown or rust coloured.

Propagation by seeds, rarely by stem cuttings.

***Peltophorum pterocarpum*** ( DC.) Baker

K. Heyne

Syn. : *P. ferrugineum* (Decne)  
Benth., *P. inerme* Naves,  
*P. roxburghii* Degener

Family : Caesalpiniaceae

Leaf : Leaves bipinnate

Flower : Flowers in terminal panicles

Cultivated in gardens for its exuberant cluster of yellow flowers. An ideal tree for roadside or avenue plantations. The wood is hard and used for making cabinets. The bark yields a dye for colouring cottons.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Population : 24.

## ***Persea americana***

Avocado, Alligator pear, Butter fruit

A native of Central America. The generic name is derived probably from *perseus*, ancient Greek name of an Egyptian tree with sweet fruits.

Large tree with broad leaves. Flowers in bunches, small, greenish in colour. Fruit large, pear-shaped ,

***Persea americana*** Mill.

Syn. : *P. gratissima* Gaertn. f.

Family : Lauraceae

Leaf : Leaves oblong or elliptic-lanceolate

Flower : Flowers in panicles

Fruit : Ovate

purple, maroon or yellow-green. Flowering in March-April and November-December. Fruiting in August-September and May-June. Propagation by seeds, budding and grafting.

The tree is grown in gardens for its edible fruits. A species of great economic and ornamental value.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.

## ***Pinus longifolia***

Long-leaved pine, Three-leaved pine

Bengali : *Pine*, Hindi : *Chir pine*.

A native of the Himalayas. The species 'longifolia' means 'with long leaves'.

A large tree with evergreen glossy foliage, shorter in the plains, bark deeply fissured, crown rounded. Leaves pale green, 20-30 cm long, needle like, hanging in clusters of three, the base of each cluster being enclosed in a small grayish-

***Pinus longifolia*** Roxb.

Syn. : *P. roxburghii* Sar.

Family : Pinaceae

brown sheath. Male flowers consist minute stamens clustered round the base of young shoot. Female flowers consist of large cones of woody scales in which seeds are concealed.

Flowers appear in the hot season. Propagation by seeds.

The tree was planted in this garden in July '95 with a view to preserve it as a specimen plant medicinal. This pine has many uses. The resin obtained from the stem is used for varnishes and paints.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.

## ***Pithecellobium dulce***

Madras thorn, Manila tamarind, Quamachil

Bengali : *Biliti imli*, *Dekhani babul*, Hindi : *Vilayati babul*.

A native of tropical America. The generic name in Greek indicates monkey and ear-ring. The species name given for the edible pulp of its fruits.

A medium sized spiny tree with rough bark. Leaves compound with very oblique leaflets. Flowers small, white, in dense heads, finely pubescent. Pods

***Pithecellobium dulce*** (Roxb.) Benth.

Syn. : *Inga dulcis* Willd.

Family : Mimosaceae

Leaf : Leaves pinnately compound with obtuse, obovate or oblong leaflets

(fruits) twisted, tinged red. Flowering in late winter or early spring. Propagation mostly by seeds although stem cuttings induce roots in favourable seasons.

A hard tree widely cultivated in the tropics as an ornamental plant for its handsome foliage and curious much spiraled fruits. Very suitable for 'cattle proof' hedges if maintained by periodic pruning. The bark yields a yellow dye. A decoction of leaves used for the treatment of leprosy and also stimulates hair growth. Pulpy aril of ripe seeds edible. Also grown as a shade or roadside tree.

Location : Plots 1. Population : 1.

### ***Plumeria acuminata***

Temple tree, Pagoda tree

Bengali : *Dalun phul*, *Gorur champa*, Hindi : *Golainchi*,  
Sanskrit : *Kshira champa*,

A native of America. The generic name is after Charles Plumier, a French botanist. The species is named after its leaf characteristics. Evergreen or partly

***Plumeria acuminata*** Ait.

Syns. : *P. acutifolia* Poir. *P. rubra* L. var.  
*acutifolia*.

deciduous tree grown as ornamental plant in gardens and in religious sites. Flowers fragrant, white with yellow centre or cream coloured.

Location : Plots 2, 3, 5; Population : 5.

The other species of *Plumeria* in the garden are :

#### **1. *Plumeria alba***

White champa

Bengali : *Sada kathchampa*

A native of West Indies. The species is named after its flower colour. A small tree with white fragrant flowers.

Location : Plots 3, 4, 5. Population : 4.

#### **2. *Plumeria tuberculata***

A dwarf tree, very similar to other *Plumeria* species. Leaves small, dark-green hardy. Flowers pure white in cluster, reflexed, borne at the end of branches. Flowering more or less round the year and profuse in summer. Propagation by stem cuttings. Grown in the garden for ornamental flowers.

Location : Plot 3, 4. Population : 5.

### 3. *Plumeria rubra*

Pagoda tree, Crimson temple tree, Red frangipani

Bengali : *Lal kathchampa*, *Lal gulancha*, Hindi : *Khair champa*, *Son champa*.

A native of tropical America. The species refers to red colour of the flowers.

A small tree with somewhat thick, brittle branches and milky latex. Leaves simple, large, pale green. Flowers fragrant, red, pink or purple with or without shades of white or yellow, borne on terminal clusters. Flowering almost throughout the year, profuse in February - October. Propagation from stem cuttings.

***Plumeria rubra*** L. (Apocynaceae).

Syn. : *P. acutifolia* Poir.

Family : Apocynaceae

Leaf : Leaves lanceolate to obovate-oblong

Commonly cultivated in gardens as a flowering and ornamental tree. Also planted in graveyards, temples and church sites for sober beauty and fragrance of flowers.

Flowers also used in making syrups. Fruits eaten in West Indies. Leaves used as poultice to cure swellings. Latex applied for rheumatism and toothache. Root barks purgative.

Location : Plots 1,2,3. Population : 4.

## ***Podocarpus macrophylla***

Buddhist pine

A native of China and Japan. The word macrophylla is from a Greek word meaning 'with large leaves'.

A dwarf, evergreen foliage conifer, slow growing in plains, 10 m high in suitable climate. Leaves upto 10 cm long, 1 cm broad, spreading in all directions, dark green above, pale beneath, midrib conspicuous on both surfaces. Male flowers minute, yellowish-white, female flowers axillary, green, 1 cm long, borne on a fleshy purplish receptacle. Male and female flowers usually borne on separate trees during hot months. Propagation by air-layering.

***Podocarpus macrophylla*** Don.

Syn. : *P. chinensis* Wall

Family : Podocarpaceae

Leaf : Leaves leathery

Flower : Flowers in spike

A few other species are also grown in the garden as foliage trees. These are : *P. elongata* (African yellow-wood) with thin needle like leaves of pine-like appearance and *P. neriifolius*, a native of China and New Guinea.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 3.

## ***Polyalthia longifolia***

Mast tree, Cemetery tree

Bengali : *Debdaru*, Hindi : *Asoke*, *Devdaru*.

A native of Sri Lanka. The generic name signifies many cures probably referring to the medicinal properties of the tree. The species refers to its long leaves.

A large, handsome tree of pyramidal shape exhibiting very sporadic leaf fall. Tree with straight trunk and beautiful crown. Leaves glossy green, apex pointed and margin wavy. Flowers yellowish green in bunches. Fruits egg-shaped, rounded at both ends. Flowering in February - March. Propagation by fresh seeds.

***Polyalthia longifolia*** (Sonn.) Thw.

Family : Annonaceae

Leaf : Leaves lanceolate

An ornamental tree planted in gardens and avenues. Also utilized as tall hedges or model trees. The wood is used for making drums, boxes, packing cases etc. Leaves somewhat scented and used in ornamental decorations, gateways and monuments. The trunks of the tree were once used for long masts of country

crafts. In many parts of India it is considered sacred tree.

Location : Plots 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8. Population : 17.

Another form of this tree with drooping branches is also grown in the garden:

### 1. *Polyalthia longifolia* var. *pendula*.

Weeping Asoke, Drooping Asoke.

A graceful tree suitable for planting in gardens as ornamental plant. Looks majestic when planted along paths and walks inside parks and gardens and along boundary walls of building complexes and gardens.

Location : Plots 1 — 8. Population : 11.

### *Pongamia pinnata*

Indian beech, Poonga oil plant, Poongam

Bengali and Hindi : *Karanj*.

A tree indigenous to India and Sri Lanka. Pongamia comes from the Tamil name of the tree 'ponga' or 'pongam', 'pinnate' in Latin indicates 'feathered'.

A medium-sized, deciduous tree with short trunk, 10-12 m. high and spreading branches. Leaves 25 cm long with 9-5 leaflets, 10-12 cm long, 6-8 cm broad, bright dark green in colour. Flowers pea-shaped, pale pink or lilac, in short clusters in the axils of new twigs. Fruits (pods) 4-6 cm long, 2 cm broad, thick, compressed, narrowed at the base and apex. Flowering in April-June. Propagation by seeds.

<p><i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.) Pierre. Syn. : <i>P. glabra</i> Vent. Family : Fabaceae Leaf : Leaves pinnate, ovate or elliptic, opposite in pair. Flower : Flowers in racemes</p>
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Grown in the garden for flowers. The oil from seeds used for medicinal purpose mainly to control skin diseases. The leaves and oil cakes are used as manure.

Location : Plot 4. Population : 1.

## *Psidium guajava*

Guava

Bengali : *Piyara*, Hindi : *Amrud*.

A native of tropical America, extensively naturalised in the plains of India. In Greek '*psidion*' refers to pomegranate probably indicating the shape of the fruit. The species is taken from a vernacular name, probably Spanish.

A small tree with rather slender trunk dividing close to the ground. Leaves finely hairy, light green. Flowers fragrant, white, produced on branchlets. Fruits globose, green to light yellow. Flowering in December, fruiting in June but varies from cultivars to cultivars.

*Psidium guajava* L.

Family : Myrtaceae

Leaf : Leaves oblong-elliptic, pubescent

A popular fruit plant in India. A number of preserves from the fruits, e.g. stew, cheese, jam, jelly etc. are made. Leaves used for wounds and ulcers. Pounded leaves applied in rheumatism and extract used in epilepsy. A decoction of the leaves relieves toothache and gum boils. Also useful in diarrhoea and dysentery.

Location : Plots 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8. Population : 9.

## *Pterocarpus santalinus*

Red sandalwood

Bengali : *Rakto chandan*. Hindi : *Lal chandan*

A medium sized tree 9-10m high, inner wood reddish in colour, branches drooping. Leaves dark-green, egg-shaped, 6-7 cm long, 4-5 cm broad. Flowers in bunches, spreading in all direction of the inflorescence. Flowering in hot season. Propagation by seeds.

*Pterocarpus santalinus* L. (Papilionaceae)

Family : Fabaceae

Leaf : Leaves ovate, leathery

Flower : Flowers in raceme

It is considered useful in medicine. The heart-wood of the tree is used as a coating in external application for headache and inflammation.

Location : plot 4. Population : 1.

### ***Pterospermum acerifolium***

Maple twist, Bayur tree, Split lily tree

Bengali : *Kanak champa*, Hindi : *Moochkund*, *Kanak champa*.

The plant is a native of Indo-Myanmar region. The genus indicates winged fruits. The species is after maple or *acer*-like foliage.

A medium evergreen tree with large crown. Leaves large, heart-shaped, irregularly lobed, upper surface green, undersurface silvery. Flowers white, fragrant, showy. Flowering from early spring to early summer. Propagation by seeds.

***Pterospermum acerifolium*** Willd.

Syn. : *P. aceroides* Wall.

Family : Sterculiaceae

Leaf : Leaves cordate

The tree is planted in gardens as a flowering and ornamental species. Also planted along avenues, churchyard and temple-yards. Leaves used for making

packing cases and plywood. Flowers are of great aesthetic and domestic uses.

Fleshy calyces of flowers soaked in water provide a refreshing drink. Flowers also used as a general tonic and in treating tumours, ulcers, leprosy and blood diseases.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 5, 6. Population : 8.

### ***Pterygota alata***

Buddha's coconut

Bengali : *Buddha narikel*

A native of India and Myanmar. Both genus and species are taken from Greek words which mean winged or wing-shaped.

A tall, fast growing, handsome tree with a straight trunk often buttressed at base and unbranched upto certain height. Leaves egg or heart shaped, large. Flowers in bunches. Flowering in spring ( March - April ). Regeneration by seeds.

***Pterygota alata*** (Roxb.) R. Br.

Syn. : *Sterculia alata* Roxb.

Family : Sterculiaceae

Leaf : Leaves ovate-cordate

Flower : Flowers in panicles

Cultivated as ornamental plant in the garden and also planted in avenues. Kernels are sometimes eaten. The wood is used for making tea boxes and light packing cases. Dried seeds yield

an oil.

Location : Plots 1, 6, 8. Population : 6.

### ***Ravenala madagascariensis***

Traveller's tree, Traveller's palm

Bengali : *Panthopadap*

A native of Madagascar. The generic name is the name of the plant in Madagascar. The species refers to its place of origin.

A plant alike *Musa* (banana) with trunk similar to palm. Leaves very large forming a fan shaped appearance of the crown due to arrangements of the foliage.

Flowers white. Flowering in

***Ravenala madagascariensis*** ( J. F. Gmel.) Sonn.

Family : Musaceae

Flower : Flowers in spathes or bracts

June - July. Propagation by suckers and seeds.

Cultivated in gardens as an ornamental plant. A watery sap is obtained from the cells of the leaf stalks or leaf sheaths which is a refreshing drink. Leaves used in roofing and as packing materials.

Location : Plots 3, 4, 5; Population : 4.

### ***Samanea saman***

Rain-tree, Monkey-pod, Zaman

Bengali : *Biliti siris*, Hindi : *Vilaiti siris*

A native of Central America and West Indies. The generic name is a corruption of its native Spanish name Zaman. The species name is based on an American vernacular name.

A fast growing large tree with wide, spreading branches forming a large canopy. Leaves with a large number of leaflets, shining above, hairy beneath,

***Samanea saman*** ( Jacq.) Merr.

Syn. : *Pithecolobium saman* Benth.,

*Enterolobium saman* Prain

Family : Mimosaceae

Leaf : Leaves pinnate, leaflets ovate-oblong

Flower : In heads or short pedicels

folding with the approach of rain or cloudy weather.

Flowers small in heads or short stalks with a number of pink, rose or white stamens

(male reproductive part)

forming a puff ball structure. Flowering in early spring to late monsoon. Propagation by seeds, stumps or stem cuttings.

Extensively used as an avenue tree. Also planted in big gardens for its umbrella like crown and a very symmetrical appearance.

Location : Plot 7. Population : 1.

## *Sapindus emarginatus*

Soapnut tree

Bengali : *Baro ritha*, Hindi : *Ritha*, Sanskrit : *Arista*, *Phenila*.

A native of South India. The generic name in Latin refers to a combination of two words which means soap and India respectively, probably indicating the use of the fruit in India as cleansing agent. The species is after its character.

A medium to large deciduous, handsome tree. Leaves with 2-3 pairs of leaflets. Flowers white, hairy in rusty hairy bunches.

Fruiting in February to April. Propagation by seeds and hardwood cuttings.

<p><i>Sapindus emarginatus</i> Vahl Syns. : <i>S. laurifolius</i> Vahl           <i>S. trifoliatus</i> L. Family : Sapindaceae Leaf : Leaves abruptly pinnate, elliptic           or oblong, acuminate or           emarginate Flower : In pubescent panicles.</p>
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Cultivated in gardens as an ornamental tree and also in avenues. Fruits used in the treatment of asthma, colic, diarrhoea, cholera, paralysis of the limbs and lumbago. Also extensively used as a detergent.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 1.

## *Saraca asoka*

Asoka tree

Bengali : *Ashoke*, Hindi : *Ashok*, *Ampich*

A native of India, Myanmar and Malaya. The genus originates from an Indian vernacular name, *sarac*. The species is after an old Sanskrit name *Ashoka*.

A medium evergreen tree with spreading branches forming a crown at the top. Leaves compound with dark green, short petioled leaflets. Young leaves drooping, pinkish brown or copper red. Flowers fragrant, orange-red to orange-

<p><i>Saraca asoka</i> ( Roxb. ) De Wilde Syn. : <i>S. indica</i> auct. non L. Family : Caesalpiniaceae Leaf : Leaves with oblong-lanceolate           leaflets Flower : Flowers in corymbs</p>
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yellow in colour, changing to vermilion, borne in compact bunches. Flowering from early spring to late spring, occasionally in other seasons. Propagation by seeds and cuttings.

A sacred tree for Hindus and a holy tree for Buddhists. Grown in gardens as an ornamental flowering tree.

The seeds used in homoeopathic medicines. Bark used in menstrual disorders and uterine affections, also an antidote to scorpion sting. Hindu women are of the belief that consuming flower buds on a specific day of the year keeps their children away from grief. Leaves and flowers are used in decoration.

Among the trees, the leaves and flowers of Ashoka were most popular in Mathura sculpture during Kushan period (A.D. 78-200). This tree was followed by Kadamba, Champaka, Nagsura and Ranjan (*Ixora arborea*)

Location : 2,4,5,6,7,8. Population : 9.

### ***Spathodea campanulata***

African tulip tree, Scarlet bell tree

Bengali : *Tulip brikshya*

A native of tropical Africa. The generic name refers to its spathe-like calyx and the species for its bell-shaped flower.

<p><b><i>Spathodea campanulata</i></b> Beauv. Family : Bignoniaceae Leaf : Leaves with ovate-lanceolate leaflets Flower : Flowers in racemes or panicles</p>
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A tall, evergreen tree. Leaves compound, large with uneven number of short stalked leaflets. Flowers large, showy, scarlet in many flowered bunches shaped like tulips. Flowering in early

spring. Propagated by seeds, stem cuttings or root suckers.



Drawn by Dr. Subrata Mukhopadhyay.

A handsome tree grown in tropical and subtropical gardens for its beautiful flowers. One of the finest avenue trees.

Location :

Plots 1, 2, 4, 7. Population : 6.

### ***Sterculia foetida***

Dung tree, Hill coconut, Wild almond

Bengali : *Baxo badam*, Hindi : *Jangli badam*

A native of tropical Africa and Asia to Australia. The generic name has its origin probably from *Sterculius* of Roman mythology (Some authors think that the name has come from a Latin word meaning foul smell, probably for its flowers). The species is named for the pungent or unpleasant odour emitted by its flowers.

<b><i>Sterculia foetida</i> L.</b>
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Family : Sterculiaceae
Leaf : Leaves digitate
Flower : Flowers in racemes

A tall beautiful tree with spreading branches mostly in whorls. Leaves undivided, lobed, crowded at branch ends. Flowers dull red, large, borne in bunches.

Fruits large and woody bearing black seeds.

Grown in big gardens as specimen tree. Also planted along roadsides. Seeds are eaten either with or without roasting.

Location : Plot 2. Population : 2.

### ***Streblus asper***

Siamese paper tree, Siamese rough bush

Bengali : *Sheora*, Hindi : *Siora*, *Dahia*, *Khorus*.

A native of tropical Asia. The genus is from a Greek word meaning evil or crooked. The species meaning rough texture, probably referring to its hirsute leaves.

A tall evergreen shrub or small tree with light or bluish grey bark. Leaves rough, variable in shape. Flowers unisexual, male minute, yellowish green, female

<b><i>Streblus asper</i> Lour.</b>
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Syn. : <i>Epicarpurus orientalis</i> Blume.
Family : Moraceae

inconspicuous, solitary. Fruits yellow when ripe, succulent. Flowering in March - April.

Propagated by seeds and root suckers.

The tree is associated with several folk tales in Bengal and other states. The tree is suitable for hedges as it coppices well. Powdered roots used in dysentery and root poultice applied to ulcers, sinuses etc. Leaves used for polishing ivory and wood. Fruits edible. Timber used for carving.

Location : Plots 2, 7. Population : 2.

### ***Suregada multiflora***

Bengali and Hindi : *Ban-nimboo, Ban naringa*

Indigenous to Malaya and India and distributed in tropical and subtropical parts of Asia and Africa. The genus is named as an allusion to the polished waxy leaves. The species is named for its immense flowering.

A medium sized, dioecious (male and female flowers on different individuals), evergreen tree with oblong lanceolate leaves forming a compact mass of foliage. Flowers fragrant, yellow. Fruits orange coloured, globose, edible. Propagated by seeds.

<p><b><i>Suregada multiflora</i></b> (Juss.) Baill. Syn. : <i>Gelonium multiflorum</i> A. Juss. Family : Euphorbiaceae Leaf : Leaves oblong-lanceolate</p>
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Occasionally grown in gardens for ornamental foliage and hedges. Bark sometimes used as a purgative. Buds exude yellow resin.

Location: Plots 3, 4, 6, 7, 8. Population : 8.

The other species grown in this garden is *G. lanceolatum* Willd., a small tree allied in habit to *G. multiflorum*., and suitable for planting in avenues and lawns. Location : Plot 8 . Population : 1.

### ***Swietenia macrophylla***

Honduras mahogany, Brazilian mahogany

Bengali : *Barpatar mahogani*, Hindi : *Barapatta mahogani*

A native of tropical America. The generic name is after Gerard Van Swieten. The species is after its broad leaves.

A large hardy, quick growing , evergreen, beautiful tree with straight and cylindrical trunk and buttressed base. Leaves larger than *S. mahagoni* (the Mahogany tree) leaves. Flowers small, greenish, sweet scented. Fruits ripen a year later. Capsules woody like a large inverted club. Flowering in April- May. Propagation by seeds.

<p><b><i>Swietenia macrophylla</i></b> King Family : Meliaceae Leaf : Leaves pinnate, glabrous, Leaflets ovate-lanceolate Flower : Flowres small in axillary subterminal panicles</p>
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The plant is usually grown as an avenue and timber tree. It is also cultivated in botanic and other big gardens in India. It grows faster and thrives better in India than *S. mahagoni* Jacq.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.

## *Syzygium cuminii*

Indian blackberry, Jambolan, Black plum, Java plum

Bengali : *Jam*, *Kaloram*, Hindi : *Jaman*.

The tree has its origin in the tropics but cultivated throughout India. The generic name is from 'suzugos', a Greek word meaning limited probably referring to its petals.

A large evergreen tree. Leaves smooth and shiny. Flowers greenish white, fragrant, borne in bunches. Fruits black with juicy pulp, ripen in summer.

### *Syzygium cuminii* Skeels

Syn. : *Eugenia jambolana* Lam.

Family : Myrtaceae

Leaf : Leaves elliptic-oblong, lanceolate or ovate-elliptic

Flower : Flowers borne in panicles

Fruit : Oblong or ellipsoid

Propagation by seeds, inarching and budding. Grown in gardens and along roadsides and avenues. Ripe fruits edible and used for making preserves, squashes, Jellies and jam. Juice of unripe fruits used for making vinegar. Timber used for construction and agricultural implements, furniture.

Bark used in dyeing and tanning.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 7 . Population : 8.

Other species of the genus cultivated in the garden are :

## 1. *Syzygium fruticosum*

Wild jamun

Bengali : *Buno jam*, Hindi : *Jangli jamun*

A native of Myanmar, Bangladesh and Himalayan region. Its earlier generic name is in honour of Prince Eugene of Savoy. The species refers to the habit, shrubby in nature.

### *Syzygium fruticosum* DC. :

Syn. : *Eugenia fruticosa* Roxb.

Leaf : Leaves to oval, acuminate

Flower : Flowers in panicles.

A large shrub or a small tree with narrow and egg-shaped leaves variable in size. Flowers small, in lateral bunches. Berries (fruits) pea-sized.

Flowering in March-April. Propagation by seeds.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 6. Population : 5.

## 2. *Syzygium jambos*

Rose apple

Bengali : *Golap jam*, Hindi : *Gulab jamun*

A native of tropical Asia. The species has its origin from a Malayan vernacular name.

*Syzygium jambos* (L.) Alston

A small evergreen tree with opposite lance shaped leaves and fragrant shining fruits.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 1

## 3. *Syzygium samarangense*

Samarang wax jambu

Bengali and Hindi : *Jamrul*

A native of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

*Syzygium samarangense* (Blume)  
Merr. & Perr.  
Syn. : *Eugenia javanica* Lam.

A medium sized tree with a dense crown of smooth shining leaves and white pear-shaped edible fruits.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3. Population : 3.

## *Tabebuia rosea*

Rosy trumpet tree

A native of Mexico. The generic name is a Brazilian name of the tree. The species indicates its rose coloured flowers.

A small or medium deciduous tree. Leaves with long-stalked leaflets, the terminal one being the largest. Flowers rose coloured with a shade of whitish pink, funnel shaped, large, in terminal clusters in a group of three, opening in the morning, falling at night.

*Tabebuia rosea* (Bertol) DC.

Family : Bignoniaceae

Leaf : Leaves opposite, digitate with ovate to oblong leaflets

Flower : Flowers in terminal panicles

Flowering in summer months. Propagation by seeds or stem cuttings.

Grown in gardens, parks and roadsides as a lovely flowering tree.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 1.

## ***Tamarindus indica***

Tamarind

Bengali : *Tetul*, Hindi : *Imli, Amlī*.

The tree is believed to be a native of tropical Africa, well naturalised in India. The genus has its origin from the Persian Tamar-i-Hind, meaning 'Indian date'. The species refers to its supposed Indian origin.

A tall, handsome-evergreen tree. Leaves compound with a number of small leaflets, light green when young fading to some extent when mature, very densely arranged on the tree. Flowers small, variegated, yellow or red in clusters, borne in profusion. Fruit pods curved, irregularly swollen, brown. Flowering in May - June. Propagation by seeds only.

Planted in gardens and along roadsides.

***Tamarindus indica* L.**

Family : Caesalpiniaceae

The fruit is edible and of great commercial value. Pulp acidic and used in curries in India, particularly in some regions. Extensively used

in chutneys and jams. Several parts of the tree are said to serve as tonic.

Useful in bilious fever. Poultice used for boils and for relieving pains.

Location : Plots 2, 5, 6. Population : 3.

## ***Terminalia arjuna***

White murdah, Arjuna

Bengali : *Arjun*, Hindi : *Arjun, Maruthu, Kahu*

A native of India. The generic name is derived from a Latin word signifying terminal. The species is after its common Indian name.

A tall deciduous tree having characteristic greyish bark which peels off in thin flakes. Leaves simple, oblong or elliptic, pale green in colour. Flowers yellowish white, cup shaped, borne in terminal bunches. Flowering from summer to early monsoon. Propagated by seeds.

***Terminalia arjuna* (DC.) Wt. & Arn.**

Syn. : *T. cuneata*

Family : Combretaceae

Leaf : Leaves simple, oblong or elliptic.

Flower : In terminal spike

The tree is cultivated in gardens and also along roadsides. Wood used for boat

making, furniture and construction of houses. Bark used for dyeing and tanning. The tree is much reputed for its well established medicinal properties. The bark is useful in cardiovascular diseases, hypertension and liver complaints. The bark or wood burnt to ashes is used to mitigate scorpion sting.

Location : Plot 2, 4. Population : 4.

The other species of the genus under cultivation in the garden is :

### 1. *Terminalia catappa*

Indian almond

Bengali : *Desi badam*, Hindi : *Badami*, *Patee badam*.

A native of Malay. The species originates from a Malayan name.

It is a tall, handsome tree forming a vast canopy of broad green leaves. Spring and autumn colouration of the leaves bring splendid beauty to the tree. Fruits green or purple, corky with sweet kernels.

*Terminalia catappa* L.

Location : Plots 2, 4. Population : 4.

### *Thespesia populnea*

Tulip tree, Portia tree, Umbrella tree

Bengali : *Palas pipul*, Hindi : *Bhendi*, *Paras pipal*

A native of India. The generic name is from 'thespesios', a Greek word meaning divine. The species refers to its poplar like leaves.

A medium, evergreen, quick growing tree with a spreading crown. Leaves large, simple, glossy, dark green. Flowers axillary, very showy, lemon yellow in colour with purple centre changing to pink before fading. Flowering throughout the year, more during summer. Propagated by seeds and stem cuttings.

*Thespesia populnea* (L.) Sol. ex corr.

Syn. : *Hibiscus populneus* L.

Family : Malvaceae

Grown in parks, gardens, roadsides and avenues. Wood durable and used in a variety of items. Fruits, leaves and roots are applied for skin diseases, psoriasis and scabies.

Location : Plots 3, 4. Population : 5.

## ***Thuja orientalis***

Oriental Arbor-vitae

Bengali : *Mayurpankhi, Thuja, Pata jhau*, Hindi : *Morpankhi, Patta jhau*.

A native of China and Japan. The genus implies an ancient Greek name for a resinous tree or shrub. The species indicates its origin in Eastern countries or places.

A lovely pyramidal small tree or shrub with typical resinous odour. Branches ascending and spreading having branchlets on both sides alike. Leaves bright

### ***Thuja orientalis* L.**

Syn : *Biota orientalis* Endl.  
Family : Cupressaceae  
Leaf : Leaves acute  
Flower : Flowers monoecious,  
globose cones globose,  
ovate

green, scale like, appressed with a small gland on back. Flowers terminal on small branches. Cones upright. Propagation by seeds. Most commonly cultivated ornamental species for attractive foliage and typical formal habit.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.

## ***Toona ciliata***

Red cedar, Toon, Indian mahogany

Bengali : *Tun, Mahaneem*, Hindi : *Toon*

A native of Malay and Australia. The Indian name Tun is latinised to *Toona* for the generic name. The species refers to *cilia* or hairs which are seen at edges of calyx and corolla.

A tall tree bearing large number of branches. Leaves with numerous leaflets in pairs. Flowers white, honey scented in drooping clusters at the ends of branchlets. Flowering from autumn to early winter. Propagation by seeds and hardwood cuttings.

### ***Toona ciliata* Roem**

Syn. : *Cedrela toona* Roxb.  
Family : Meliaceae  
Leaf : Leaves abruptly pinnate

Grown in gardens as specimen tree, also along avenues as a shade tree. Wood reddish in colour, resistant to attack of white ants. Very often used for cabinet work and structural

purposes. Flowers yield a red and yellow dye.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 2.

### ***Trema orientalis***

Indian nettle tree, Charcoal tree

Bengali : *Chikan, Kharak*, Hindi : *Jiban, Jio*

A native of tropical Asia . The generic name in Greek means a hole, alluding to its pitted stones. The species indicates its origin in Eastern regions.

A small tree with pubescent branchlets.

***Trema orientalis*** ( L.) Blume

Syn. : *Celtis orientalis* L.

Family : Ulmaceae

Leaf : Leaves alternate, acuminate, cordate, ovate-oblong to ovate-lanceolate.

Fruit : An ovoid drupe.

Leaves variable in sizes and structure. Flowers small in almost sessile clusters. Fruit ovoid or round. Flowering in early spring. Propagation by seeds.

Sometimes planted in gardens for its evergreen foliage. Wood light and soft, makes good charcoal for using in gunpowder and fire works.

Location : Plots 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Population : 11.

### ***Wrightia tomentosa***

Dudhi

Bengali : *Dudhkoraiya*, Hindi : *Dharauli, Dudhi*.

A native of tropical Africa, Asia and Australia. The genus is named after William Wright, a Scottish physician botanist. The species refers to the hairy texture of its leaves.

***Wrightia tomentosa*** ( Roxb. ) Roem. & Schult.

Syn. : *W. arborea* (Denn.) Mabb.

Family : Apocynaceae

Leaf : Leaves elliptic

Flower : Flowers in cymes

A small deciduous tree with greyish yellow to rust-coloured bark. Flowers pale yellow to orange yellow in clusters. Flowering in early monsoon. Propagation by seeds or cuttings.

The trees is planted in gardens as specimen ornamental species. Leaves along with salt applied for toothache. Wood suitable for articles of turnery and carvings.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.



**SHRUBS**

## *Acalypha hispida*

Cats tail

Bengali : *Muktajhuri*, Hindi : *Vattitali*

A native of East Indies. The generic name refers to that given by Hippocrates to a nettle. The species refers to the presence of hairs on the leaves.

A bushy shrub of about 1.5 - 2.0 m with green leaves slightly pale beneath. Flowers much longer than leaves, deep or pale red in colour. Flowering throughout the year. Propagation mostly by cuttings.

*Acalypha hispida* Burm. f.

Family : Euphorbiaceae

Flowers : In amarantus like spike

A very attractive garden shrub which can also be grown in shade. In Unani system of medicine, the plant extract is prescribed as a laxative and leaf juice is used to relieve stomach pain and arthritis.

Other species grown in the garden is *A. wilkesiana* Muell.-Arg. – native of East Indies – a shrub with bronzy green leaves, edged crimson.

Location : Plots 5, 6, 7, 10. Population :5

## *Ardisia solanacea*

Bengali : *Banjam*

A native of India and Malaysia. The generic name indicates pointed alluding to the stamens or corolla lobes. The species is for its resemblance to Solanaceous (brinjal group) plants.

An erect branched shrub. Leaves shining with slender nerves. Flowers pink. Fruits shining black. Flowering almost throughout the year. Propagation by seeds and cuttings.

*Ardisia solanacea* Roxb.

Syn. : *A. humilis* Vahl

Family: Myrsinaceae

Leaf : Lanceolate-oblong, petiolate

Roots used in the Malay peninsula and some other countries in the East for diarrhoea, fever and muscle pains. Leaves eaten as salad.

The berries yield a yellow dye.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Population : 5.

### ***Artabotrys uncinatus***

Climbing Ylang

Bengali : *Kanthali champa*, Hindi : *Hari champa*, Sanskrit : *Hara champaca*

A native of India and Sri Lanka. The generic name in Greek refers to suspended grapes. The species is after its hooked climbing nature.

A climbing, woody, ornamental shrub. Leaves evergreen, short-petioled. Flowers large, fragrant not very showy, greenish turning to yellow on maturity.

***Artabotrys uncinatus*** (Lamk.) Merr.

Syn. : *A. odoratissimus* R. Br., *A. hexapetalus* (L.f.) Bhandari

Family : Annonaceae

Leaf : Leaves alternate, oblong or oblong lanceolate

Flowering almost throughout the year. Propagation mostly by seeds.

Grown in gardens extensively as shrubby climber for its fragrant flowers. Reported

to have some medicinal properties.

Location : Plots 3, 5. Population : 4.

### ***Bauhinia acuminata***

Camel's Hoof

Bengali : *Kanchan*, Hindi : *Safed kachnar*

A native of India, Malaya and China. The genus is named after two sixteenth century herbalists and twin brothers, John and Caspar Bauhin. The species refers to its leaf characteristics.

A bushy, quick growing shrub attaining a height of 1-2 m. Leaflets with deep cleft at the apices of the leaves resembling the outline of a camel's hoof.

***Bauhinia acuminata*** L.

Family : Caesalpiaceae

Leaf : Leaves with ovate, acuminate leaflets

Flower : Flowers in axillary corymbose raceme.

Flowers white, 5-7 cm across in bunches.

Flowering from March-September.

Propagation by seeds.

Cultivated in gardens, parks and other areas as ornamental flowering plants of hardy nature.

Location : Plots 1, 4, 5, 9. Population : 5.

### ***Brunfelsia americana***

Lady-of-the night

A native of tropical America. The genus is dedicated to Otto Brunfels, a physician and botanist of the sixteenth century. The species is after its country of origin.

A shrub of medium height with small leaves, light green above and pale below. Flowers white fading to yellow, sweetly scented especially at night, borne in terminal clusters or in leaf axils. Flowering almost throughout the year. Propagation by air-layering.

***Brunfelsia americana* L.**

Family : Solanaceae

Cultivated in gardens as a handsome flowering shrub capable of growing in partial shade.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 2.

### ***Brunfelsia uniflora***

Yesterday - today - tomorrow

Bengali : *Tribarnak*

A native of Brazil and West Indies. The species is after the characteristics of its flowers. Mrs. Thomas Hope introduced the plant to Kew, England.

A slender, partly deciduous shrub with dark green leaves paler beneath. Flowers small, solitary or in pairs, initially light violet-blue to purple and then fading to almost white. Flowering in late spring to early monsoon (April-June). Propagation by stem cuttings and air-layerings.

***Brunfelsia uniflora* (Pohl.) D. Don**

Syn. : *B. hopeana* Benth.

Family : Solanaceae

Grown as an interesting ornamental shrub. The dried roots are said to possess some medicinal properties.

Location : Plot 10. Population : 1.

## ***Brya ebenus***

Green ebony

A native of India and Myanmar. The genus is named after John Theodore de Bry, a naturalist of late sixteenth and early seventeenth century. The species refers to ebony coloured wood.

A beautiful shrub with pendulous branches and small dark green leaves in clusters. Flowers pealike, golden yellow on branches. Flowering during summer and rains. Propagation by seeds and air-layering.

<p><i>Brya ebenus</i> DC. Family : Fabaceae</p>
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Grown in garden as beautiful hardy ornamental specimen plant or in the background of shrubbery. The hard dark coloured wood is used in making tools

and knife handles.

Location : Plots 3, 4. Population : 2.

## ***Caesalpinia pulcherrima***

Peacock flower, Barbados pride

Bengali : *Krishnachura*, Hindi : *Guletura*, Sanskrit : *Ratnagandhi*

A plant generally distributed in the tropics. The generic name is after Andreas Caesalpinus, an Italian botanist of sixteenth century. The species is after its beautiful flowers.

A bushy shrub with numerous leaves. Flowers showy, reddish-yellow to orange-scarlet in terminal bunches. The variety 'Flava' known as 'Radhachura' produces bright yellow flowers.

<p><i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> (L.) Sw. Syn. : <i>Poinciana pulcherrima</i> L. Family : Caesalpinaceae Leaf : Leaves bipinnate Flower : In terminal raceme inflorescence</p>
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Flowering in summer and monsoon. Propagation by seeds.

An ornamental plant used for effective display in the garden. Leaves and barks are purgative and

tonic. Fruits are rich in tannin.

Location : Plots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Population : 13.

Other species of *Caesalpinia* grown in this garden are :

**1. *C. cacalaco*** Humb. Bonpl. A native of Mexico which produces spikes of yellow flowers during winter. Location : Plots 1, 7. Population : 2.

**2. *C. coriaria*** (Jacq.) Willd. (Divi - Divi). A native of America and Australia. An ornamental tree with light foliage, spreading habit and heavy head. Flowers greenish white, scented.

Location : Plot 2. Population : 40

## ***Calliandra haematocephala***

Powder-puff

Bengali : *Powder-puff, Manikuntala*

A native of tropical America. The generic name in Greek means beautiful stamens. The species is named after its red flower-heads.

A medium sized ornamental shrub bearing compound leaves. Flowers axillary, hemispherical, crimson-red, resembling powder-puffs. Flowering in autumn, winter and late summer.

<b><i>Calliandra haematocephala</i></b> Hassk.
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Family : Mimosaceae
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Propagation by seeds, stem cuttings and air-layerings.

Cultivated as ornamental plant in parks and gardens.

Location : Plot 4. Population : 1.

Other species of *Calliandra* grown in this garden are :

### **1. *Calliandra brevipes***

A very dwarf shrub, upto 1m high. Leaves very fine, compound. Flowers in cluster, numerous with light-pink stamens.

### **2. *Calliandra hybrida***

A tall, hardy, quick growing shrub, 3m high. Leaves compound. Flowers 6 cm across, deep-pink, lower part white.

Location : plot 3, 5, 10. Population :22.

### **3. *Calliandra speciosa***

A dwarf shrub, up to 2m high. Leaves with 3 leaflets on each pinnae. Flowers hemispherical, 4cm across, bright-scarlet.

### **4. *Calliandra tweedii***

A tall shrub, about 2-3 m high. Leaves with 10-14 pairs of pinnae. Flowers in hemispherical heads, upper part of stamens purple, lower part white.

### *Carissa carandas*

Karanda

Bengali : *Karamcha*, Hindi : *Karaunda*, *Karumcha*

A native of India, Sri Lanka and Malaya.

A hardy, straggling, thorny, tall, evergreen shrub, 3-4m high. Leaves smooth, dark green, entire 3-5 cm long with axillary spines. Flowers white with pink blush, Jasmine-like, scented, 2 cm across, Fruits oval, first reddish-white, turn glossy-red like cherry, mature in July-Aug. Flowering in early summer. Propagation by cuttings and air-layering.

*Carissa carandas* L.

Family : Apocynaceae

Leaf : Leaves opposite, glabrous, ovate or elliptic, entire

Grown in the garden as a fruit plant. It looks attractive when it bears a profusion of red berries. Fruits used as pickle and jelly with excessive sour taste. Ripe fruits are also used in confectionery in place of cherry.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 3.

### *Cassia bicapsularis*

A hardy tall shrub with an umbrella-like shape and arching branches. Leaves with 2-6 pairs of leaflets, 1 cm long, oval, apex round. Flowers yellow, 2 cm across, in terminal clusters and covering a large part of the branches. Flowering during summer and rains.

*Cassia bicapsularis* L.

Family : Caesalpiniaceae

Leaf : Leaves pinnately compound

Propagation by air-layering.

One of the best yellow flowering shrubs grown in the garden.

Location : Plot 4. Population : 10.

### *Cestrum nocturnum*

Night jasmine, Queen of the night, Lady of the night

Bengali : *Hasnuhana*, Hindi : *Rat-ki-rani*.

A native of West Indies, America and Australia. The generic name is an old Greek name. The species refers to its night blooming habit.

A bushy shrub bearing slender branches with dark green leaves and creamy-white or greenish-yellow flowers in large terminal or axillary bunches. The flowers' fragrance at night make the surrounding atmosphere scented when numerous flowers open. Flowering almost throughout the year, mostly during rains.

*Cestrum nocturnum* L.

Family : Solanaceae

Flower : In terminal or axillary panicles

Propagation by cuttings.



Drawn by Dr. Subrata Mukhopadhyay.

It is a hardy ornamental plant sometimes used for screens. An essential oil with medicinal properties is extracted from the flower. The other species found in the garden is *C diurnum* L. (Day jasmine), a quick growing shrub with shiny leaves and fragrant white flowers opening during day time.

Location : Plots 3, 4.  
Population : 4.

## ***Codiaeum variegatum***

Garden croton

Bengali : *Patabahar*

A native of Malaysia. The generic name is probably from Greek for head or from the Malaysian name. The species refers to its extensively variegated leaves. Commonly known as garden croton.

A shrub with beautiful variegated foliage and numerous cultivated forms exhibiting foliage of beautiful colouration. Propagation by cuttings and air-layers. New varieties are raised from seeds.

<p><b><i>Codiaeum variegatum</i></b> (L.) Blume Family : Euphorbiaceae</p>
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Widely used in tropical gardens as ornamental foliage plants in pots and beds.

Mature plant parts and pounded leaves have some medicinal values.

Location : Plots 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Population : 24.

## ***Dombeya mastersii***

Dombeya

A native of tropical Africa. The generic name is after Joseph Dombay, a French botanist. The species refers to its brilliant flowers.

A spreading shrub. Leaves frequently lobed. Flowers creamy white, crowded

<p><b><i>Dombeya mastersii</i></b> Hook. f.</p>
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<p>Family : Sterculiaceae</p>
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<p>Leaf : Cordate, palmately nerved</p>
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into dense heads, very showy, clustered under leaves. Flowering in winter. Propagation by seeds and air-layering.

Used as an ornamental flowering shrub in parks and gardens. The stem bark is the source of fibre.

Location : Plots 3, 4, 5, 6, 8. Population : 6.

### ***Dombeya wallichii***

A shrub of about 3m in height .Leaves large, very distinct in form, heart or egg-shaped, toothed, 12 cm long, 15 cm wide, hairy on both surfaces. Flowers in compact large bunch, pink, in drooping heads.

Flowering in winter. Propagation by cutting and layering.

Grown in the garden for its beautiful drooping flowers.

Location : Plots 3, 4, 5, 6. Population : 8.

### ***Duranta repens***

Golden dew drop, Creeping skin flowers, Pigeon berry;

Bengali : *Duranta*, Hindi : *Putija, Juti*

A native of tropical America. The generic name is after Castor Durantas, a Roman physician and botanist. The species refers to the characteristics of its flowers.

An evergreen shrub or small tree with angular branches armed with

***Duranta repens* L.**

Syn. : *Duranta plumieri* Jacq.

Family : Verbenaceae

Flower : In panicles or racemes

spines. Leaves bright green or variegated. Flowers blue, borne in bunches succeeded by yellow berries. Flowering throughout the year.

Propagation by cuttings.

Widely cultivated in gardens as ornamental hedge plants which become impenetrable after successive prunings.

Location : Plot 9. Population : 1.

### ***Euphorbia cotinifolia***

A native of Mexico, West Indies and South- America.

A shrub of medium height with coppery-red and young shoots. Leaves broadly egg-shaped, 5-10 cm long, narrow tip, round base. Flowers conspicuous,

***Euphorbia cotinifolia* L.**

Family: Euphorbiaceae

brownish-yellow, very small, in yellowish-green inflorescence (cyathium). Grown in the garden for attractive foilage. Propagation by cuttings in spring.

Location : Plot-4, 10. Population : 8.

### *Euphorbia pulcherrima*

Poinsettia, Christmas poinsettia, Easter flower

Bengali : *Patramanjari, Kerui*

A native of Central America. The generic name is possibly from the Greek meaning edible fruits. The species epithet is given after its beautiful bracts.

An erect shrub with light green branches. Leaves large, shiny-green above and pale-green below. Flowers inconspicuous, terminal in cythia, bracteal leaves bright vermilion, scarlet or red, in single or multiple rows. Flowering from

***Euphorbia pulcherrima*** Willd. ex Klotz.

Syn. : *Poinsettia pulcherrima* (Willd. ex Klotz.) R. Grah.

Family : Euphorbiaceae

Flower : Flowers terminal in cyathia

November to February. Propagated mostly by stem cuttings.

Grown widely in gardens for its brilliant coloured bracts. Also used in cemeteries, lawns,

staircases and balconies.

Location : plots 5, 6. Population : 3.

Other species of *Euphorbia* growing in this garden are : *E. leucophylla* Benth., a flowering shrub and *E. tirucalli* L., a succulent.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.

*E. leucocephala* Lotsy. ( Bengali : Phuljhuri, English : White lace Euphorbia), a flowering shrub native of Mexico bearing small yellowish flowers and white bracts mostly from November to February.

Location : Plot 6. Population : 1.

### *Excoecaria bicolor*

A native of Malaya. The generic name in Latin *excoecares*, possibly refers to its effect on eyes. The species for the colouration of its leaves.

A bushy shrub with reddish branches. Upper surface of leaves olive green, under surface deep purplish red. Flowers small, inconspicuous yellow in colour.

***Excoecaria bicolor*** Hassk.

Family : Euphorbiaceae

Flower : In axillary spikes

Propagation by cuttings or gootie.

Grown in gardens for colourful leaves,

in full sun or in partial shade.

Location : Plots 5, 8. Population : 3.

### ***Fortunella japonica***

Kumquat.

A tall bushy shrub with a few thorns about 2m high. Leaves lance shaped tapering at both ends, 4-6 cm long, 2-3 cm wide. Flowers small, scented, white in clusters in the axil of leaves. Fruits small, round, 2.5 cm.-3.2 cm diam., turning bright-orange in winter.

***Fortunella japonica*** (Thumb.)

Swingle

Family : Rutaceae

Flowering in the early rains.  
Propagation by air-layering.

Grown in this garden as an ornamental fruit plant.

Location : Plot- 3, 6. Population : 3.

### ***Gardenia jasminoides***

Gardenia, Cape Jasmine

Bengali, Hindi and Sanskrit : *Gandharaj*

A native of China and Japan. The generic name is after Dr. Alexander Garden, a medical doctor and correspondent of Linnaeus. The species is for its similarity with jasmines.

An evergreen well-shaped shrub or a small tree of about 3 m. Leaves large, shining, deep green, often variegated. Flowers waxy, solitary, yellowish white,

***Gardenia jasminoides*** Ellis

Syn. : *G. augusta* Ellis, *G. florida* L.

Family : Rubiaceae

Leaf : Opposite, Obovate or oblanceolate

Flower : Axillary or terminal

single or double, very fragrant.

Flowering in summer and rains and also on other seasons. Propagation by stem cuttings.

Used in parks and gardens as ornamental and aromatic plant.

Essential oil contained in flower is used in perfumery. Flowers also used in worship. Roots used in dyspepsia, hysteria and for some nervous disorders.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10. Population : 35

### ***Gardenia jasminoides* 'Fortuniana'**

A shrub of dwarf habit, upto 1.5 m high, bushy. Leaves simple, dark green, glossy, 4-6 cm long, 2-3 cm wide. Flowers white, in one or two rows of petals, 5 cm across, scented. Flowering in early summer. Propagation by cuttings, layerings.

Grown in the garden for scented flowers.

## ***Hamelia patens***

Scarlet bush, Fire bush

Bengali : *Muna*

A native of tropical America. The generic name is in honour of a French botanist and author, Henry Louisdu Hamel du Monceau. The species indicates the spreading branches.

A handsome evergreen shrub of spreading habit. Leaves simple, lustrous, light green. Flowers in terminal bunches with orange-red or reddish-yellow

***Hamelia patens*** Jacq.

Syn. : *H. erecta* Jacq.

Family : Rubiaceae

Leaf : Leaves elliptic-ovate

corolla, narrowly cylindric, not fully open. Flowering from late spring to end of monsoon (April to September). Propagation by seeds and stem cuttings.

The species is planted in gardens for the beauty of its floral sprays. Plants are reported to be poisonous.

Location : Plots 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Population :31.

## ***Hibiscus rosa-sinensis***

China rose

Bengali : *Jaba, Joba*, Hindi : *Gulhar*

A native of China and tropical Asia. The generic name is an old Latin name. The species refers to its common English name, China rose or Rose of China.

A handsome flowering shrub with variable sizes depending upon the cultivars. Leaves serrated, egg-shaped and deep green in colour. Flowers with five colourful petals or multipetalled. Various shades of colours are exhibited by

***Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*** L.

Family : Malvaceae

Leaf : Alternate, ovate

Flowers : Solitary, axillary

cultivars including bicour flowers introduced for horticultural use. Flowering round the year, profuse in monsoon. Propagation generally by cutting or air-layering. Obstinate varieties require specific

treatments for rooting.

Widely planted in gardens as an attractive flowering shrub. Dye from deep coloured varieties are used in making boot polish. Green leaves reported to be laxative. Decoction of flowers used in some bronchial diseases. Root bark used for cough, cold, fever and in some venereal diseases.

Location : Plots 4, 6, 10. Population : 5.

### ***Hibiscus schizopetalus***

A native of tropical Africa. In Bengali it is known as Jhumko Jaba and in English Japanese lantern or Coral Hibiscus. An excellent garden species much liked for its drooping flowers.

Location : Plots 1, 6. Population : 5.

### ***Ixora***

Torch tree

Bengali : *Rangan*, Hindi : *Makrichi Jhar*, Sanskrit : *Bandhuka*, *Nevali*

The genus *Ixora* is comprised of a large number of species and cultivars distributed in the tropical parts well around the globe and planted in gardens as superbly beautiful horticultural shrubs or small trees. The generic name is derived from the word 'Ikvara', a Malabar deity to whom the flowers of species are offered. The genus represents evergreen shrubs or small trees with simple, smooth, green or dark green leaves. Flowers in terminal or axillary clusters of very showy white, rose, pink, scarlet, yellow or violet colours. Flowering in summer and monsoon. Propagation by stem or root cuttings and air-layerings though many cultivars produce viable seeds.

***Ixora* spp.**

Family : Rubiaceae

Leaf : Opposite, glabrous, elliptic/  
ovate/lanceolate/cordate

Flower : In axillary or terminal  
cymes/corymbs.

Cultivated in gardens for attractive colourful flowers in shrubbery, as specimen plants and in hedges. The wood of some species is hard and used for making

furniture.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Population : Many.

Species of *Ixora* in this garden attracting attention for their profuse flowering are :

1. *Ixora barbata* Roxb. (Bearded ixora) : A large shrub native to Andaman Islands. Leaves shining on both surfaces. Flowers white on terminal clusters, much broader than long.

Location : Plots 2, 3, 4. Population : 4.

2. *Ixora chinensis* Lamk. (Chinese ixora) : A native of China. A popular species cultivated in gardens. A small shrub with sessile leaves and scarlet flowers in dense clusters.

Location : Plot 6. Population : 1.

3. *Ixora chinensis* Lamk. 'Nana'.

A dwarf shrub, grows up to a height of 45 cm. Leaves deep green, small, variable, lance-shaped or egg-shaped. Flowers small in terminal cluster. Three different types are :

*chinensis* 'Nana Red' : Flowers red

*chinensis* 'Nana Pink' : Flowers pink

*chinensis* 'Nana Lutea' : Flowers yellow

Grown in this garden in hedges and also in herbaceous borders.

Location : Plots 3, 4. Population : 2000.

4. *Ixora coccinea* L. (English : *Jungle flame ixora*; Bengali : *Rangan*; Hindi : *Rangan, Rookmini*)

A native of tropical Asia. Small and compact shrubs. Leaves with round base. Flowers deep scarlet in colour in clusters.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.

5. *Ixora coccinea* L. 'Lutea' : Flowers yellow in terminal clusters.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10. Population : 19.

6. *Ixora fulgens* Roxb. : A native of India, Myanmar and Malaya. A shrub with lance-shaped leaves and orange-scarlet flowers in clusters.

Location : Plots 1, 4, 5. Population : 6.

7. *Ixora parviflora* Vahl Syn. 1. *arborea* Roxb. ex Sm.

Popularly known as Torch tree. A native of India. Much branched small trees, dark green leaves and sweet scented white flowers in clusters. Ripe fruits

are eaten by some tribals.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 4, 6. Population : 17.

8. *Ixora singaporensis* Hort. : Indigenous to Singapore.

A tall bushy plant with lance-shaped, green, shining leaves and splendid orange-scarlet flowers.

Location : Plots 3, 4, 5, 6. Population : 8.

9. *Ixora venusta* Bremek. : Native of tropical Asia. Flowers lemon yellow.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 3.

## ***Jasminum***

Jasmine

Bengali : *Jui*, *Beli*, *Mallika*, *Chameli*, *Kunda Juin*, Hindi : *Bela*, *Mogra*, *Motiya*, *Chameli*, *Kund phul*

It comprises a large diverse group of horticultural plants probably over 200 species distributed in warmer parts of Asia, Europe, Africa and the Pacific region. The genus is from an Arabic name.

Generally climbing or erect shrubs bearing attractive leaves and fragrant flowers at the ends of branchlets, twin or in clusters with colour ranging from

<p><b><i>Jasminum</i></b> spp. Family : Oleaceae Leaf : Alternate or opposite Flower : Flowers in cyme</p>	<p>white, yellow or sometimes reddish. Flowering almost throughout the year depending on varieties. Propagation by both stem and root cuttings and also by layers.</p>
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Very widely used in parks and gardens as ornamental plants. Flowers extensively used in preparation of garlands. Aromatic perfume distilled from the flowers has considerable economic uses.

See also 'Climbers' pg 116

The following species are in cultivation in the garden :

1. *Jasminum humile* L. Bengali : *Swarna chameli*, English : *Yellow jasmine*, Hindi : *Peeli chameli*, *Pitmalti*

A native of tropical Asia. The species refers to the growth characteristic of the plant. Flowers bright yellow, borne in open clusters, scarcely fragrant.

Location : Plot 4. Population : 1.

2. *Jasminum multiflorum* (Burm. f.) Andr. (Syn. : *J. pubescens* Willd.)

English : *Tuscan jasmine*, Bengali : *Kunda*, Hindi : *Kund phul*.

A native of tropical Asia. The species refers to its profuse flowering behaviour. Flowers white, single or double, fragrant, borne in clusters on terminal bunches at the tip of lateral hairy branches.

Location : Plots 3, 4, 5, 7, 8. Population : 6.

3. *Jasminum multiflorum* (*J. pubescens*) 'Rubescens'.

A handsome variety of *J. multiflorum*. Flowers white inside, outer surface pink. Flowering in winter. Propagation by cuttings and layerings. One of the best winter flowering shrubs. Grown in this garden in different locations.

Location : Plot 3, 5, 7, 8. Population : 15.

4. *Jasminum sambac* (L.) Ait.

English : Arabian Jasmine, Bengali : *Belphul*, Hindi : *Bela, Mogra*

An erect shrub upto 1.25 m high, densely branched and bushy in nature.

Flowers sweetly fragrant, white, in few or many flowered clusters. Profuse flowering occurs from late summer to middle of rainy season.

Location : Plot 4. Population : 10.

### ***Jatropha integerrima***

Fiddle leaved Jatropha

Bengali : *Jayati*

A native of Cuba. The genus in Greek refers to its medicinal use. The species refers to its peculiar shaped leaves.

***Jatropha integerrima*** Jacq.  
Syn. : *J. pandurifolia* Andr.  
Family : Euphorbiaceae  
Leaf : Ovate, oblong or  
panduriform, entire, dentate  
below  
Flower : In corymbose cyme

An evergreen shrub with simple, shining, dark green leaves. Flowers bright crimson or scarlet-red in clusters. Flowering almost throughout the year. Propagation by stem cuttings.

Used as a flowering and ornamental shrub in parks, gardens and traffic islands for its foliage and flowers.

Location ; Plots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10; Population : 26.

***Jatropha integerrima*** ‘Rosea’. (Syn. : *J. pandurifolia* ‘Rosea’.)

A new variety of *J. integerrima*, Its flowers are light-rose in colour.

Location : Plot 7. Population : 1.

### ***Justicia adhatoda***

Malabar Nut

Bengali : *Basak*, Hindi : *Arusha*, Sanskrit : *Vasaka*

A native of tropical Asia and distributed throughout India upto 1500 m. The generic name is after James Justice, a Scotch gardener.

A small, evergreen, dense shrub. Leaves egg or lance-shaped, apex tapering to a point. Flowers white with red or purple streaks in dense, short clusters.

***Justicia adhatoda*** L.  
Syn. : *Adhatoda vasica* Nees,  
*A. zeylanica* Medic.  
Family : Acanthaceae  
Leaf : Ovate-lanceolate, acuminate  
Flower : Flowers in dense spikes

Flowering after rains. Propagated by cuttings and seeds.

The plant is very well known in the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine for treating bronchitis, asthma, jaundice, coughs and

pulmonary congestion. Leaves, roots and barks contain a white crystalline alkaloid.

Location : Plot 2. Population : 1.

### ***Kirganelia reticulata***

Bengali : *Panjuli*, Hindi : *Panjoli*, *Makhi*

Indigenous to tropical Africa, China and Malaya. The generic name (*Phyllanthus*) in Greek denotes 'leaf flower' indicating that flowers of some species are borne on leaves. The species refers to the dense net work venation of its leaves.

A large shrub with slender branchlets, pubescent. Leaves small, thin, variable in sizes. Flowers small, axillary on branches, male and female flowers subequal.

<p><b><i>Kirganelia reticulata</i></b> (Poir.) Baill. Syn. : <i>Phyllanthus reticulatus</i> Poir. Family : Euphorbiaceae Leaf : Entire with reticulate venation</p>
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Fruits in leafless branches.  
Flowering in early autumn.  
Propagation by seeds.

Cultivated in gardens as ornamental plant for its beautiful

foliage.

Location : Plot 10. Population : 1.

### ***Kopsia fruticosa***

Shrub Visca, Pink Kopsia

Bengali : *Dakur*

A native of Myanmar and Malaya. The genus has its name after Professor Jan Kops, an eminent botanist of Netherlands and author of a botanical dictionary. Species name is indicative of its shrubby nature.

A large, evergreen shrub. Leaves large, shining green above and yellowish beneath. Flowers pink with dark centre, showy, borne on terminal bunches.

<p><b><i>Kopsia fruticosa</i></b> A. DC. Syn. : <i>Cerbera fruticosa</i> Ker. Family : Apocynaceae Leaf : Leaves elliptic or elliptic-lanceolate Flower : Flowers on terminal cymes</p>
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Flowering in late Spring, occasionally in other seasons.  
Propagation by seeds or air-layering.

Cultivated in parks and gardens for attractive flowers almost throughout the year. It may grow both in sunny places as well as under semi-shade conditions. It contains a poisonous latex, a source of arrow poison.

Location : Plots 3, 4, 5. Population : 3.

## ***Lagerstroemia indica***

*Comon crape myrtle*

Bengali : *Pharash*

A native of tropical Asia. The species refers to its probable origin in India (some suggests its origin from China).

A tall shrub bearing profuse colourful flowers—white, pink or lilac. Seasonal pruning keeps the plant in desired shape and size. Flowers bloom just before monsoon and continue for a month or so. Propagation exclusively by stem cuttings. Seed propagation deteriorates the flower quality and generally not in practice.

<p><b><i>Lagerstroemia indica</i></b> L. Family : Lythraceae</p>
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Location : Plots 3 — 7. Population : 15.

## ***Lantana camara* 'Depressa'**

A dwarf, bushy, prickly stemmed shrub with prostrate habit. Leaves small, toothed and coarse. Flowers yellow on compact heads. Flowering almost throughout the year except during the rains. Propagation by cuttings and layerings. Grown in this garden as an ornamental flowering plant.

<p><b><i>Lantana camara</i></b> L. Syn. : <i>L. aculeata</i> L. Family : Verbenaceae</p>
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## ***Lantana sellowiana***

Weeping or Trailing Lantana

A very dwarf trailing shrub with mauve flowers or flat heads. Grown in this garden as a ground cover and for mass effect of flowers. A white flowering variety of *L. sellowiana* is also grown in this garden.

<p><b><i>Lantana sellowiana</i></b> Link &amp; Otto Family : Verbenaceae</p>
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Location : Plot 1, 2. Populaton : 200.

## ***Lawsonia inermis***

Tree mignonette, Egyptian privet, Henna

Bengali : *Mehedi, Mendi*, Hindi : *Mehndi*, Sanskrit : *Mendika, Ragangi*

A native of North Africa and South West Asia. The generic name is after John Lawson, author of a history of North Carolina.

A tall handsome shrub with stout woody stem having cultivars *alba* (light yellow or white petals), *rubra* (rosy petals) and *miniata* (red petals). Leaves opposite, lance-shaped, smooth. Flowers small, in terminal bunches, fragrant. Flowering in summer and rains. Propagation by seeds and stem cuttings.

Usually grown in gardens as ornamental and hedge plants. Leaves produce henna or alhenna. A deep brownish-yellow dye obtained from leaf paste used by

men to colour grey hairs and by women for colouring finger nails, palms of hands and soles of feet. Henna or Mehendi oil is used in perfumery. Applied as paste or decoction for boils, burns, bruises and skin inflammations.

***Lawsonia inermis* L.**

Family : Lythraceae  
Leaf : Leaves lanceolate, glabrous  
Flower : Flowers in terminal paniced cymes

Location : Plot 4. Population : 1.

***Malpighia coccigera***

Malpighia

A native of West Indies. The generic name is after Marcello Malpighi, a famous naturalist.

A dwarf bushy shrub. Leaves shining, dark green above. Flowers pinkish-

***Malpighia coccigera* L.**

Family : Malpighiaceae  
Leaf : Opposite, ovate to sub-orbicular  
Flower : In short peduncled cymes

white in bunches, axillary. Flowering in summer and rains. Propagation by seeds or layers.

Grown in gardens as specimen shrub. Very suitable for front row plantation in shrubbery border. Useful for dwarf hedging.

Location : Plots 3, 4. Population : 2.

***Memecylon umbellatum***

Ironwood tree

Bengali : *Anjan*, Hindi : *Anjan*

A native of Indo-Malayan region. The genus comes from a Latin word meaning strawberry like edible fruits. The species refers to the nature of its inflorescence.

***Memecylon umbellatum* Burm. f.**

Syn. : *M. edule* Roxb.  
Family : Melastomaceae  
Leaf : Opposite, ovate-lanceolate

A large bushy shrub or a small tree with woody branches. Leaves with upper surface shiny green and lower surface light green,

Flowers in clusters, small, blue in colour, in the axil of leaves and on stems. Flowering in April - May. Propagated by seeds.

A blue flowering ornamental tree-like shrub grown in parks and gardens.

Location : Plot 6. Population : 1.

### ***Murraya paniculata***

Orange jasmine

Bengali : *Kamini*, Hindi : *Bisar*, *Kamini*, *Juti*.

A native of India. The genus is named in honour of John Adam Murray, a professor of botany. The species indicates the flowers borne in panicles. (clusters)

A large evergreen shrub or small tree. Leaves compound, dark green, shiny, egg-shaped glandular. Flowers axillary or at branch ends in bunches, white, fragrant. Flowering almost throughout the year. Propagation by seeds.

<p><b><i>Murraya paniculata</i></b> (L.) Jack. Syn. : <i>M. exotica</i> L. Family : Rutaceae Leaf : Compound, paripinnate, ovate Flower : In corymb inflorescence</p>
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It is grown extensively in parks and gardens. An ideal specimen for making ornamental hedges and topiary. Bark used in cosmetics and wood for walking sticks and engravings. Leaves and

stem bark have been reported to have medicinal properties.

Location : 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10. Population : 18.

### ***Mussaenda frondosa***

Dhoby's plant

Bengali : *Sadapata*, Hindi : *Bedina*, *Bebina*

A species of Indo-Malayan region. The species *frondosa* means leafy in nature, probably referring to its modified sepals.

A spreading shrub or undershrub with deep yellow or orange coloured flowers, one of the sepals modified to white flag like structure. Flowering

<p><b><i>Mussaenda frondosa</i></b> L. Family : Rubiaceae</p>
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throughout the year. Propagation by cuttings or air-layering.

Cultivated in gardens as an ornamental shrub.

Location : Plot 9. Population : 2.

## ***Mussaenda philippica***

Flag bush

Bengali : *Mushanda, Patralekha*, Hindi : *Bednia*

A native of the Philippines. The genus is after a native name in Sri Lanka. The specific name indicates its place of origin.

A bushy shrub with greyish-brown bark. Leaves glossy green, simple. Flowers yellow or yellowish-white, small at branch ends; sepals expanded forming bracts of white or of various shades of pink or rosy pink. Barring winter months flowering noted almost throughout the year. Propagation by cuttings or air-layerings.

***Mussaenda philippica*** A. Rich.

Family : Rubiaceae

Leaf : Opposite, ovate to elliptic, pubescent

It is one of the choicest fancy shrubs grown in parks and gardens and also at other places like courtyards, boulevards and traffic

islands.

Location : Plots 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Population : 11.

## ***Nerium indicum***

Oleander, Rose berry plant

Bengali : *Karabi*, Hindi : *Chandni, Kaner*, Sanskrit : *Karavira*

A native of Persia, India and Japan. The generic name is from the Greek word 'Neros' meaning moist, probably referring to its wild habitat. The species is after its common English name.

An evergreen, tall, quick growing shrub with upright, slender branches. Leaves mostly in whorls of 3 or opposite, thick with dark green upper surface. Flower in various shades of white, pink, rosy and red, funnel shaped, double or single, in terminal clusters, slightly scented. Flowering throughout the year but profuse in May - June and October - November. Propagation by stem cuttings and gootie.

***Nerium indicum*** Mill.

Syn. : *N. oleander* L., *N. odorum* Soland

Family : Apocynaceae

Leaf : Oblong, lanceolate

Used in gardens as ornamental flowering shrub. Also suitable in boulevards and traffic islands. Medicinally used in ring

worms and as a cardiac stimulant. Roots, bark and latex are poisonous.

A few other varieties growing in this garden are :

1. *N. indicum* 'Album' : Flowers white, single.
2. *N. indicum* 'Carneum flore-pleno' : Flowers deep-pink, double.
3. *N. indicum* 'Roseum' : Flowers pink, single.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9. Population : 14.

### ***Ochna atropurpurea***

A native of tropical America. The species refers to the flower colouration.

***Ochna atropurpurea* DC.**

Family : Ochnaceae

A shrub with egg-shaped and minutely toothed leaves, yellow or reddish-yellow flowers with dark purple calyx (sepals).

Location : Plots 1, 3, 4, 5. Population : 8.

### ***Ochna jabotapita***

Bird's eye bush

Bengali : *Ramdhan champa*, Hindi : *Kanak champa*, *Khambar*

A native of tropical Asia. The generic name is after a Greek word 'Ochne' indicating wild pear. The species probably refers to a vernacular name in Sri Lanka.

An evergreen, tall, woody shrub. Leaves finely serrated, upper portion dark green, lower shining green. Flowers yellow in axillary bunches, calyx (sepals) bright red or crimson red, corolla (petals) butter-cup like. Fruits in central disc-like receptacle, brightly coloured. Flowering in summer. Propagation by seeds and stem cuttings.

Cultivated as an ornamental shrub in gardens and at the back of shrubberies.

***Ochna jabotapita* L.**

Syn. : *O. squarrosa* L.

Family : Ochnaceae

Leaf : Simple, alternate, elliptic, lanceolate,

Flower : Flowers in axillary racemes

Wood used for making walking sticks. Root used as antidote to snake bite. A decoction of roots used in asthma and menstrual complaints.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.

### ***Phyllanthus nivosus***

Snow bush

A bushy shrub with variegated leaves, 2 m high. Leaves compound, leaflets broadly egg-shaped, 2-3 cm long and almost of the same width, green and white, sometimes all white at the tip. Flowers small, hanging, greenish. Propagation by cuttings.

***Phyllanthus nivosus***

Syn : *Braijnia nivosus*

Family : Euphorbiaceae.

The plant is grown in the garden as an ornamental foliage plant.

Location : Plot 5, 10. Population : 4.

### ***Punica granatum***

Pomegranate, Granda

Bengali : *Dalim*, Hindi : *Anar*, *Darim*

A native of Iran. The generic name indicates an early name of pomegranate. The species name probably denotes innumerable seeds within the fleshy pulp.

A large deciduous shrub or small tree, Ornamental variety 'Nana' is dwarf. Leaves more or less shining, deep green. Flowers showy, orange-red. Flowering in rainy season. Ornamental varieties flower almost throughout the year. Propagation by seeds, cuttings, air-layerings and by grafting also.

Cultivated for handsome attractive flowers and delicious nourishing fruits. The fruit juice is a stimulant and is used for diseases of liver, stomach, circulatory and nervous systems. A number of ornamental cultivars - *Nana* ( Dwarf, double, scarlet), *Florepleno* ( double, crimson red), *Albescens* ( double, white) and *Largellei* ( double, coral red striped yellow) are in cultivation in Indian gardens. Medicinally used in diarrhoea and dysentery and also against tape worm.

***Punica granatum*** L.

Family : Punicaceae

Leaf : Leaves entire, oblong or obovate

Location : Plots 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10. Population : 7.

## ***Ravenia spectabilis***

Ravenia, Lemonia

Bengali : *Laboni*

A native of Cuba and Brazil. The genus bears its name after J. F. R. Raven, a pupil of Tournefort, the father of modern genus concept. The species refers to its beautiful flowers.

An evergreen, tender, medium shrub. Leaves compound with dark green, glandular leaflets. Flowers bright pink, crimson-pink or purplish-red in axillary stalk, solitary or in clusters. Flowering all the year round, profuse in summer.

Propagated by cuttings and layerings.

***Ravenia spectabilis*** Griseb.

Syn. : *Lemonia spectabilis* Lindl.

Family : Rutaceae

Leaf : Leaves trifoliate, opposite, lanceolate

Flower : Flowers in axillary peduncles

It is cultivated in parks and gardens as a flowering ornamental shrub which can also grow in partial shade.

Location : Plots 2, 5, 7, 8, 9. Population : 7.

## ***Sanchezia nobilis***

A native of Ecuador. The generic name is after Jos. Sanchez, Professor of Botany at Cadiz. The species is after its lovely foliage and flowers.

A quick growing, stout, shrubby plant with square stem and large irregular, toothed leaves. Flowers yellow in heads forming a cluster, bracts bright red. Flowering in summer. Propagation by stem cuttings.

***Sanchezia nobilis*** Hook. f.

Family : Acanthaceae

Leaf : Leaves oblong-ovate to ovate-lanceolate, obtuse

Flower : In panicles

An ornamental shrub grown in gardens and parks for showy foliage. It can be grown in shade or under semishade conditions.

Location : Plot 9; Population ; 1.

### ***Tabernaemontana divaricata***

Crepe jasmine

Bengali : *Tagar*, Hindi : *Chandni, Tagar, Chamela*

A native of India. The genus inherits its name from J. T. Tabernaemontanus, a botanist and physician. The species refers to its spreading habit.

An evergreen large shrub or small tree with fine dichotomous (dividing into two parts) branching. Leaves glossy green. Flowers milky white with light yellow centre, produced in clusters.

Flowering throughout the year, profuse during summer and rainy seasons. Propagated by stem cuttings.

Grown as an ornamental flowering shrub in parks and gardens. Preferred for moonlight gardens and temple offerings. Flowers used in garlands, pujas and

<p><b><i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i></b> (L.) R. Br. Roem. &amp; Schult. Syn. : <i>Ervatamia coronaria</i> Stapf. Family : Apocynaceae Leaf : Leaves simple, opposite, lanceolate</p>
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on occasions to express grief, sorrow and condolences. The plant may be used as a bushy hedge. Root useful in paralysis, epilepsy, toothache and scorpion sting.

Location : Plot 1, 2, 3,

4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Population : 62.

### ***Tecoma stans***

Yellow-bells

Bengali : *Chandraprabha*

A native of tropical America. The generic name is abridged from Tecomaxochitl, a Mexican name. The species indicates its erect habit.

An erect ornamental shrub with spreading branches. Leaves with serrated

<p><b><i>Tecoma stans</i></b> (L.) H. B. &amp; K. Syn. : <i>Bignonia stans</i> L., <i>Stenolobium stans</i> (L.) Seem. Family : Bignoniaceae Leaf : Leaves pinnately compound, leaflets sessile, ovate or lanceolate Flower : On racemes or panicles</p>
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dark green leaflets. Flowers funnel shaped, bright yellow, borne in clusters on terminal racemes or panicles. Flowering in early spring to late monsoon, sometimes in

other seasons. Propagated by seeds.

Grown as a beautiful ornamental flowering shrub in gardens and parks and in other places, such as traffic islands and residential enclosures in particular. The species in rows can be trimmed to nice hedges with sufficient flowering. Roots possess medicinal properties. Reported to be effective in snake bite and scorpion sting.

Location : Plots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10. Population : 9.

### ***Woodfordia fruticosa***

Fire-flame bush, Shiranji tea

Bengali : *Dhai*, Hindi : *Dawi*, *Dhauta*, Sanskrit : *Dhataki*, *Agnijwala*

A native of Asia and tropical Africa. The genus is named in honour of James Woodford who published a catalogue of plants in and around Edinburgh in 1824. The species refers to its shrubby pattern of growth.

A shrub with a number of spreading branches with reddish brown bark which peels off in thin strips. Leaves lance-shaped. Flowers red in axillary clusters. Flowering in summer. Propagation by seeds.

<p><b><i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i></b> ( L. ) Kurz Syn. : <i>W. floribunda</i> Salisb. Family : Lythraceae Leaf : Lanceolate Flower : In paniculate cymose inflorescence</p>
---

Cultivated in gardens as a flowering shrub. Flowers yield a red dye used for colouring fabrics. The dried flowers act as stimulant, sometimes added to Ayurvedic preparations for causing alcoholic fermentations. Dry fruits, flowers,

inflorescences and buds form commercial drugs for bowel complaints, seminal weakness and haemorrhages. A source of gum of commercial use.

Location : Plot 2. Population : 1.

# **CLIMBERS**

### ***Aganosma caryophyllata***

Savannah flower

Bengali : *Malatilata*, Hindi : *Malati*

A native of India. The genus is from two Greek words which collectively refer to the mild fragrance of flowers. The species' name is from the leaves.

A large climber with stout stems and hairy shoots. Leaves with 3 pairs of very oblique nerves, strong beneath, all running towards the point. Flowers white, scented, in terminal clusters. Flowering during rains. Propagation by seeds and air-layers.

***Aganosma caryophyllata***, (Roxb. ex Sims)

G. Don

Syn. : *Echites caryophyllata* Roxb.  
ex Sims

Family : Apocynaceae

Leaf : Leaves ovate or elliptic

Flower : Flowers in terminal cymes

Planted in parks and gardens as ornamental climber. Very often used in screens. Root decoction used as tonic in fevers and flower extracts as eye wash in infections and

diseases.

Location : Plots 3, 4. Population : 3.

### ***Allamanda cathartica***

Allamanda

Bengali : *Harkakra*, Hindi : *Pila lata*

A native of South America. The generic name is in honour of Dr. Frederik Allamand of Leyden, Professor of Natural History and an associate of Linnaeus. The species indicates digestive properties of the plant.

A woody climber. Leaves small and wavy-margined. Flowers bright golden yellow, throat white marked, tubes curved. Flowering almost throughout the year. Propagation usually by cuttings and layers.

***Allamanda cathartica*** L.

Family : Apocynaceae

Leaf : Leaves obovate

It is cultivated in Indian gardens for showy flowers. Leaves possess valuable digestive properties. There are several ornamental varieties of this plant which exhibit colourful flowers of various shades.

Location: Plot 7. Population : 1.

### ***Antigonon leptopus***

Sandwich Island climber, Coral creeper, Love vine, Queen's wreath

Bengali : *Probal lata*

A native of South America.

A tuberous-rooted, quick growing, heavy, deciduous climber. Leaves 8-10 cm long, smooth, veins prominent, margin wavy.

***Antigonon leptopus*** Hook.& Arn.

Family : Polygonaceae

Leaf : Leaves alternate, cordate or hastate-ovate, tendrils axillary

Flowers : In terminal raceme

Flowers on terminal bunches,

sepals-5, rosy-red, 1.5 cm long.

Flowering throughout the summer and rains. Propagation

by cuttings, division of tubers and seeds.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 10.

### ***Bougainvillea***

Bougainvillea

Bengali : *Baganbilas*, Hindi : *Baganvilas*

A native of South America. The genus is named in honour of De Bougainville, a French navigator.

One of the prettiest groups of flowering plants. A number of varieties of this group with a wide range of flower colouration have come up from its four

***Bougainvillea*** spp.

(*B. buttiana* Holtum & Standley, *B. glabra* Choisy,

*B. peruviana* Humb. & Bonp., *B. spectabilis* Willd.)

Family : Nyctaginaceae

species viz., *B. buttiana*, *B.*

*glabra*, *B. peruviana* and *B.*

*spectabilis*. Some are bushy

and some very tall grown on

trees. Leaves green. Flowers

small, inconspicuous, tubular, enclosed in showy bracts which contribute to the beauty of plants. Flowering almost throughout the year, profuse in spring, varying with species and varieties. Propagation by cuttings, layerings and seeds.

A widely grown ornamental plant in gardens both in fields and pots. Used for decorating porticos, balconies, staircases and various other places.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Population : 26.

## *Clerodendrum splendens*

A native of tropical Africa. The generic name of Greek origin is probably of no significance. Species is named for its beautiful flowers.

An ornamental heavy climber with woody, slender stems and dark green, short petioled leaves. Flowers bright scarlet in dense many flowered bunches.

*Clerodendrum splendens* G. Don

Syn. : *Siphonanthus splendens* Hiern

Family : Verbenaceae

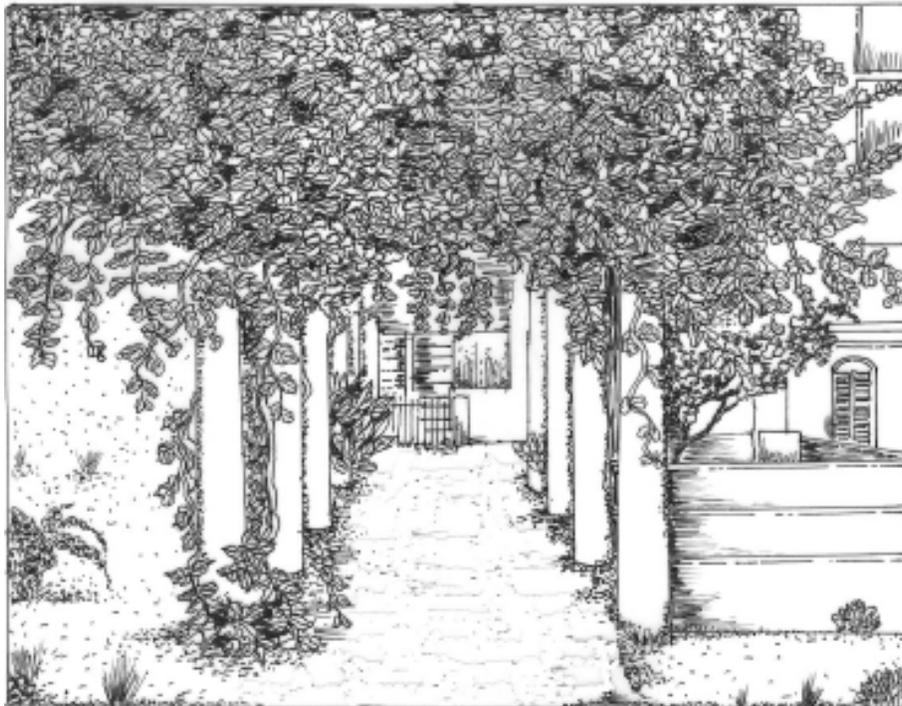
Leaf : Leaves oblong, cordate and elliptic

Flower : In cyme

Flowering in winter.  
Propagation by seeds and layering.

Cultivated in gardens and parks as an ornamental climber.

Location : Plot 6. Population : 1.



Drawn by Dr. Subrata Mukhopadhyay.

### *Congea tomentosa*

A native of Myanmar. The generic name is derived from an East Indian vernacular name. The species refers to presence of woolly hairs on leaves.

An evergreen climber with leaves soft and hairy beneath. Very conspicuous for the pale, pinkish mauve bracts in loose terminal clusters retained for several weeks. Flowering in winter. Propagation mostly by cuttings.

<p><i>Congea tomentosa</i> Roxb. Family : Verbenaceae Leaf : Leaves opposite, entire, ovate, acute Flower : Flowers in panicles</p>
---

Grown in the garden as a stout, ornamental climber and also for hedges.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.

### *Gloriosa superba*

Super lily, Tiger's claws, Glory lily

Bengali : \**Agnishikha*, *Bishalanguli*, *Ulat chandal*, Hindi : *Kalihari*, *Languli*

The generic name is from the Latin *gloriosus* signifying beautiful flowers.

A perennial tuberous climber. Viny stems bear simple, stalkless, soft and smooth leaves with tips spirally twisted in the upper part to serve as tendrils with a very attractive curled point 'clasper' with which it climbs. Flowers solitary, reflexed, 6 cm long, greenish-yellow changing to orange and scarlet.

<p><i>Gloriosa superba</i> L. Family : Liliaceae Leaf : Leaves linear-lanceolate</p>
--

Flowering during summer and rains. It can be raised both from seeds and tubers.

The tubers are used medicinally. Seeds are rich source of a precursor raw material for the manufacturing of drugs for gout.

Location : Plot 3. Population 2.

\* '*Agnishikha*' is reported to have been so named by Tagore from its resemblance to flames of fire.

### ***Hiptage madablota***

Madablota

Bengali : *Madhabi lata*, Hindi : *Madhaviyota*

A native of India and Malaysia. The generic name is derived from the Greek hiptamai (to fly) referring to the winged fruits of the genus.

A large evergreen climber with woody stem. Leaves about 15 cm long, nearly half as broad, pointed, smooth, forming a dense foliage. Flowers white on axillary bunches, petals-5, one golden.

***Hiptage madablota*** Gaertn.

Syn. : *H. benghalensis* (L.) Kurz

Family : Malpighiaceae

Flowering in February-March.

Propagation by ground layerings and cuttings.

Leaves are used in cutaneous diseases. The juice possesses insecticidal properties and is applied for scabies.

Location plot 6. Population : 1.

### ***Jacquemontia violacea***

Jacquemontia

Bengali : *Jacquemontia*

A native of Mexico and Brazil. The genus is named after Victor Jacquemont (1801-1832), a French botanist.

A twining climber which combines in it many of the virtues of the well-

***Jacquemontia violacea*** Choisy

Syn. : *J. pentantha* (Jacq) G. Don

Family : Convolvulaceae

Leaf : Leaves alternate, cordate

Flower : In cymose inflorescence

known *Ipomoea*. Leaves 2-4 cm long.

Flowers on loose cluster, corolla short and funnel-shaped, violet-blue.

Flowering throughout the year.

Propagation by seeds and cuttings.

Location : Plot : 2. Population : 3.

### ***Jasminum auriculatum***

Jasmine

Bengali : *Jui*, Hindi : *Chameli*

A native of India. The species refers to its ear or cup-shaped corolla.

<p><b><i>Jasminum auriculatum</i></b> Vahl. Family : Oleaceae</p>
---

Flowers white, in bunches, strongly fragrant.

Location : Plots 3, 4. Population : 2.

### ***Jasminum grandiflorum***

Spanish Jasmine

Bengali : *Chameli*, Hindi : *Chameli, Motiya*

A pretty climber with striate branches. Leaves bright-green, leaflets 7-11 in number. Flowers in terminal or axillary clusters, white, fragrant, petals twisted 3 cm across, star-shaped.

<p><b><i>Jasminum grandiflorum</i></b> L. Family : Oleaceae Leaf : Opposite, Compound Flower : In Cyone inflorescence</p>
---

Large number of white flowers bloom during the hot months. Propagation by ground layerings and cuttings. A plant grown in the garden on arch in front of the cottage.

Location : Plot ; Population : 1.

\* See also 'Shrubs' pg 98

## ***Petrea volubilis***

Purple wreath

Bengali : *Nilmonilata*

A native of tropical America. The generic name is after Lord Petre, a patron botany in Europe. The species refers to its twining habit.

One of the choicest, elegant handsome, somewhat woody climber, leaves short stalked. Flowers heavy, blue or purple in terminal bunches, star-shaped with violet in the centre, varying considerably in colour.

### ***Petrea volubilis* L.**

Family : Verbenaceae  
Leaf : Leaves ovate, acuminate  
or obtuse  
Flower : Flowers in racemes

Flowering in summer.  
Propagation by seeds and gootie.

Grown in parks and gardens as  
ornamental shrubby climbers.

Location : Plot 3, 4, 5. Population : 3.

## ***Piper nigrum***

Black pepper

Bengali : *Golmorich*, Hindi : *Kali mirch*

A robust, woody, evergreen climber with large, broad and egg-shaped leaves. Flowers and fruits are borne in dropping cluster. Fruits are small, globose, 6-7 mm. diam; yellow turning to red when ripe. Flowering almost throughout the year. Propagation by stem cuttings and suckers.

### ***Piper nigrum* L.**

Family : Piperaceae  
Leaf : Ovate and leathery

The dried seeds are used as a condiment, carminative and stimulant. Certain experiments on seeds have shown antibiotic activity of seeds. Grown in the garden for obtaining raw materials of daily use.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 1.

**PALMS**

### ***Areca catechu***

Areca-nut, Betel-nut

Bengali : *Supuri*, Hindi : *Supari*, Sanskrit : *Poogiphalam*

A native of Malaysea and found throughout East Indies, the Philippines and in the coastal regions of India. Areca is a variant of Tamil word meaning “a cluster of nuts”. The species comes from a Malayan name.

A tall slender palm with a large crown of leaves and numerous leaflets. The inflorescence bears both male and female flowers. Fruits ovoid, hard, smooth and having reddish-brown lines,

***Areca catechu* L.**

Family : Arecaceae

Leaf : Leaves pinnate

Flower : In a spadix inflorescence

orange or scarlet. In Bengal the harvesting season is generally from August to January which varies in other states. Propagation by sowing

ripe fruits.

The tree is cultivated for its nuts. When planted close they serve as a windbreak. Leaves used for thatching. Wood is hard. The fruit is an important article of commerce. Extensively used for medicinal purposes.

Location : Plot 2. Population : 2.

### ***Arenga pinnata***

Sugar palm of Malacca, Gomuti palm, Sago palm

A native of Malaysea. The genus is named after a vernacular name in the Moluccas. The species refers to its feathery leaves.

A tall palm with a ringed trunk bearing long, feathery leaves with smooth petiole and numerous leaflets. Leaf stalks covered with long black fibres. Inflorescence solitary, pendulous, appearing first on the topmost leaf axil, spreading downwards. Male and

***Arenga pinnata* (Wurmb.) Merr.**

Syn. : *A. saccharifera* Labill.

Family : Arecaceae

Leaf : Pinnate

Flower : Flowers in spadix inflorescence

female flowers rarely together, generally on separate peduncles. Male flowers purple. Fruits inversely ovoid. Maturity of the tree attained in 6-10 years.

Propagation by seeds.

The palm yields sugar, source being the male. Flowers of female inflorescence do not yield any sugar. Trunks of female plants are preferred for

extraction of sago. Coir obtained from petiolar sheaths. Coarse parts of fibre used for making brushes. The kernel of the fruit is edible. The black fibre at the leaf bases is known as gomuta fibres which is widely used for filters and caulking of ships. It is an elegant palm which when young is very beautiful and ornamental.

Location : Plots 3, 4. Population : 2.

### ***Borassus flabellifer***

Palmyra palm

Bengali : *Tal*, Hindi : *Tar*

A native of tropical Africa. Name of the genus comes from a Greek word referring to palms. The species is after its fan-shaped leaves.

A medium to tall palm tree bearing a terminal crown of 30 - 40 large fan-like leaves. Male and female flowers are borne on different plants. A large quantity of sugary sap exudes when inflorescence axis is tapped. Fruit large and fibrous

***Borassus flabellifer* L.**

Syn. : *B. flabelliformis* Roxb.

Family : Arecaceae

Flower : Flowers in spathes

containing 3 nut-like portions. Flowers appear in November - December. Propagation by seeds.

One of the most useful trees of India.

Sap exuded is sweet and tasty. Fermented sap is known as toddy of commerce. Neera, the unfermented sap is a refreshing and nourishing drink. Sweet jaggeries of commerce are from this sap. Stems used as house posts or roof beams. Leaves used for thatching cottages in rural areas and for making country umbrella known as 'Toka'. Fruits very refreshing and meets much of the food requirements of the poor in rural areas. All parts make fast burning fuel.

Location : Plot 8. Population : 1.

### ***Caryota urens***

Sago, Toddy or Fish-tail palm

Bengali : *Sago palm*, Hindi : *Mari*, Sanskrit : *Mada*, *Dirgha*

A native of India, Sri Lanka and Malaya. The generic name is an old Greek name for nut bearing plant. The species *urens* means burning sensation.

***Caryota urens* L.**

Family : Arecaceae

The tree with a smooth, cylindrical, annulate trunk normally reaches a height of 6 - 10 m but may be higher.

Leaves very large upto 5 m long, 3 - 4 m broad, leaflets resembling fish-tail. The tree has rapid growth rate and attains full height in 10 - 15 years and flowering thereafter.

Flowers borne in bunches. Propagation mainly by seeds.

It is grown in fields or pots. Young plants are beautiful decorative foliage specimens. A strong and useful fibre known as kittul fibre is obtained from the tree. From the time of its flowering it becomes the source of sweet toddy juice. The young terminal buds and nuts are edible and also possess medicinal properties. The plant parts sometimes cause irritation and burning sensation when come in contact with skin.

Location : Plots 3, 5, 6, 7. Population : 18

The other species of *Caryota* grown in the garden is *C. mitis* Lour. It is also a graceful palm not so common in India but available in plenty in Andaman islands. Kernel of fruit is edible. A fibre is yielded which is used for making mattresses.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.

### ***Chrysalidocarpus lutescens***

Madagascar palm

A native of Madagascar. The generic name in Greek implies a type of fruit. The species means yellowing or golden colouration.

An elegant, feathery, spineless palm with smooth, cylindrical base and long,

<p><b><i>Chrysalidocarpus lutescens</i></b> (Bory) H. Wendl. Syn. : <i>Areca lutescens</i> Bory Family : Arecaceae Leaf : Leaves pinnate, acuminate</p>
---

narrow, feathery leaves. The plant reaches a height of about 8 m very much alike *Areca*. Propagation by seeds and suckers. It is grown as

ornamental foliage plant in the garden and is excellent for pot culture.

Location : Plots 1,3,9. Population : 3.

The other species (also a Madagascar palm) found here is *C. madagascariensis* Becc. (*Areca madagascariensis* Hort., *Dypsis madagascariensis* Nichols.), very similar to *C. lutescens*.

Location : Plot : 2. Population : 2.

## ***Cocos nucifera***

Coconut

Bengali : *Dab, Narikel*, Hindi : *Nariyal*, Sanskrit : *Narikela*

A native of South or Central America. Authorities differ on its original home. The generic name in Portuguese indicates monkey, from the nut, suggesting a monkey's face. The species name refer to bearing nuts. Cultivated in India for centuries and extensively distributed in India, Malay, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Philippines and South Sea Islands.

### ***Cocos nucifera* L.**

Family : Arecaceae  
Leaf : Leaves pinnate  
Flower : Flowers emerge from  
          spathes or bracts

The tree with a crown of large feathery leaves attains a height of 20 - 25 m. Female flowers larger than male ones. Propagation from seedlings raised from fully mature fruits.

Dwarf varieties used as graceful ornamental plants in the garden. Green coconut is a refreshing drink. Source of coir fibre of commerce and oil. Fruits used on auspicious occasions. An extremely valuable tree producing various articles of economic use.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Population : 40.

## ***Corypha utan***

Corypha palm

Probably a native of Bengal and found in Myanmar, Andaman islands, Java and the Philippines. The generic name in Greek indicates summit or top, the

### ***Corypha utan* Lam.**

Syn. : *C. elata* Roxb.  
Family : Arecaceae  
Flower : Flowers in spadix  
          inflorescence

growing point or leaves. The species probably indicates its tall habit.

A plant with straight trunk attaining a height of 15 - 20 m with a crown of large fan-shaped leaves. Spadix (floral case) narrow, about one fourth the length of trunk. Flowers green. The plant dies after one flowering and fruiting. Propagated by seeds. Usually grown in tropical and sub-tropical gardens. Soft interior portion of trunk yielding a kind of sago and a sweet juice from the base of inflorescence fermented into toddy or vinegar.

Location : Plot 5. Population : 1.

One other species of *Corypha* is also found in the garden.

Location : Plot 2. Population : 1.

### *Elaeis guineensis*

Oil-palm, African oil-palm

It is indigenous to West Africa. The generic name in Greek means oil. the species refers to its place of origin.

An erect palm with stout stems and terminal crown of feathery leaves with narrow leaflets. Petiole spiny, serrated. Spadices (inflorescence casing) arise

<p><i>Elaeis guineensis</i> Jacq. Family : Arecaceae Leaf : Leaves pinnate, acute, linear-lanceolate Flower : Flowers in spadix inflorescence. Male and female flowers borne separately but on same plant (monoecious)</p>
--

below the terminal bud, the male preceding the female. Fruits in large clusters-yellow, orange, red and sometimes black in colour, each with 1 to 3 seeds. Flowering after 4 - 6 years. Propagation by seeds from fresh ripe fruits.

In its young stage it serves as a beautiful slow growing ornamental palm. The fleshy fruit yields the palm oil of commerce used for making candles and soaps. It is also used as a cooking oil.

Location : Plot 1, 2,3,4. Population : 24.

### *Howeia forsteriana*

Kentia palm

The genus is named after the place of its origin-Lord Howe Island, to the East of Australia.

A tall, slender, feather-leaved palm, 7-8 m high with spreading leaves, much like *Areca*. Leaves 2 m long, pinnae (leaflets) 12-13 cm long, cut at the apex.

<p><i>Howeia forsteriana</i> Becc. Family : Arecaceae Leaf : Leaves pinnate</p>
---

Suckers are freely formed at the base and produce bushy plants. Propagation by seeds.

A widely grown and popular palm in the garden.

Location : Plot : 1, 3, 5. Population : 8.

## ***Licuala grandis***

Small fan-palm

Hindi : *Chota tal patta*

A native of New British Island, north of New Guinea. The genus denotes a Moluccan name. The species refers to its comparatively bigger size.

An erect, elegant, ornamental fan-leaved palm with many erect spreading leaves. Lobes of leaves wedge-shaped, long, truncate and split. Flowers in loose clusters, regular, large. Flowering throughout the year. Propagation by freshly harvested seeds, rarely from side shoots.

***Licuala grandis*** Wendl.

Family : Areaceae

A very attractive and uncommon species of ornamental palm grown in gardens for exhibits.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 1.

## ***Livistona chinensis***

Chinese fan palm

A native of China and Japan. The genus is named after Patrick Murray of Livistone. The species refers to its place of origin.

A fan-leaved palm with tall, stout and annulate trunk. Leaves many, spreading; petiole covered with brown spines, 2-3 cm long, segments pendulous, deeply forked. Flowers greenish, spadices (floral cases) long. Flowering all the year round. Propagated by seeds which are produced in great abundance.

***Livistona chinensis*** (Jacq.) R.Br.ex Mart.

Syn. : *L. mauritiana* Wall.

Family : Areaceae

Leaf : Leaves orbicular, linear-lanceolate

Flower : In spadix inflorescence

A very good species for exhibition and the most common among the ornamental fan-palms of tropical and sub-tropical gardens of India. Leaves are used for making country fans.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8. Population : 108.

## ***Livistona rotundifolia***

Java fan palm

A native of Philippines and Malaysia. The species refers to its round leaves.

A graceful fan-leaved tall palm with slender stem. Leaves bright green, large, blade roundish, deeply segmented, spinous long stalks, segments 60-90, short, not drooping downwards. Flowers small, yellowish, in numerous, long, branching clusters. Fruits numerous, bright, reddish-orange when mature, nearly black when ripe. Flower in hot season. Propagation by seeds.

***Livistona rotundifolia*** Mart.

Family : Arecaceae

The tree is grown in the garden and young plants are grown in pots for indoor decoration.

Location : plot 6. Population : 1

## ***Nypa fruticans***

Nipa palm

Bengali : *Gulga, Gabna*

A native of Australia and Indo-Malayan regions. The generic name is from a native name in Molucca. The species indicates its shrubby habit.

A palm once widely distributed along tidal rivers and estuaries in its native habitats. Found abundantly in the tidal forests of Sundarbans, Myanmar,

***Nypa fruticans*** Wurm.

Family : Nypaceae

Leaf : Leaves pinnate

Flower : Male and female flowers borne separately but on the same plant (monoecious)

Chittagong, Malay, Andamans and Sri Lanka. In the Raj Bhavan garden this rare species grows luxuriantly in the south west corner of the east lake.

The plant has prostrate and gregarious trunk or rootstock. Very long, dense, feathery leaves originate from the end of rootstocks, leaflets bearing soft spines or scales along midrib. Male flowers small and female flowers are comparatively large. Fruits large, spherical and shaped like a human head. Flowering in June - July. Propagation by seeds under submerged condition and also by detached portions of rhizomes. Prefers salinity.

A majestic plant cultivated in shallow pools for ornamentation. A promising and abundantly useful plant for dwellers of the coastal and estuarine areas. Leaves are used for thatching huts and sheds. Fruits edible. A kind of toddy extracted from spadices (floral cases).

Location : Plot 1. Population 1 (compact bush).

### ***Phoenix rupicola***

The plant is a native of India.

<p><b><i>Phoenix rupicola</i></b> T. Anders. Family : Arecaceae Leaf : Leaves feathery, glabrous, pinnae 50-60 cm long. Fruit : Oblong</p>
--

A slender graceful palm cultivated in the garden. Distributed in Eastern Himalayas, Sikkim and Assam. Leaves bright green with compressed petiole and flaccid leaflets. Fruit shining yellow, edible.

Location : Plot 2. Population : 1.

### ***Phoenix sylvestris***

Wild date palm, Date sugar palm

Bengali : *Khejur*; Hindi : *Khajuri*; *Pindakharjura*

The plant is indigenous to India. The generic name was given by Theophrastus either thinking of Phoenicia where it was first seen by the Greeks or of Phoenician purple. The species in Latin means wild.

A palm with solitary stem, a large crown with persistent bases of petioles on the trunk. Leaves long with spiny petioles, long fascicled and rigid. Flowers small, fragrant in spadices - male coloured white and female greenish. Fruits

<p><b><i>Phoenix sylvestris</i></b> (L.) Roxb. Family : Arecaceae Flower : In spadix inflorescence Fruit : An oblong, ellipsoid berry</p>
---

orange-yellow. Flowering starts with the onset of summer and ripening takes place in autumn. Propagation by seeds only.

The tree is very important economically due to sugary sap exuded from the cut portions of the trunk. The unfermented sap is sweet to taste and refreshing. Also useful in chronic cough and cold. Sugar and jaggery are prepared from the fresh juice which fetch a very good market in some states of the country. Fermented juice is intoxicating and used as a liquor.

Leaves used in thatching and also for preparing a wide range of useful

domestic items like hand fans, mats, baskets and brooms.

Location : Plots 1, 4. Population : 2.

### ***Ptychosperma macarthurii***

A native of New Guinea. The generic name is a Greek word probably referring to the ruminant albumen of the seeds.

A dwarf tree with smooth, ringed trunk crowned at summit. Leaves feathery with leaflets acuminate, obliquely cut at the apex. Propagation by seeds and suckers.

***Ptychosperma macarthurii*** (H. Wendl) Nichol.

Family : Arecaceae

Leaf : Leaves pinnate, leaflets acuminate

Flower : Flowers in spadices, monoecious

This palm species is not very often cultivated in gardens but preserved as a

specimen plant.

Location : Plots 1,2, 3, 5, 7, 8,9. Population : 29.

### ***Rhapis humilis***

Rhapis palm

A native of China. The generic name in Greek indicates needle referring to the shape of leaves or awns of corolla. The species refers to its dwarf growth habit.

A fan-palm of low height producing suckers at base and forming a bushy clump. Almost stemless excepting some slender projections. Leaves terminal, semi-circular. Propagation by seeds and suckers.

***Rhapis humilis*** Blume

Family : Arecaceae

Cultivated in gardens as ornamental palm in open and also in shade; in pots and tubs for indoor display and sometimes used as a hedge.

Location : Plot 3. Population : 1.

## ***Roystonea regia***

Royal palm, Bottle palm, Mountain glory

Bengali : *Botol palm*, Hindi : *Bottal palm*



Drawn by Dr. Subrata Mukhopadhyay.

***Roystonea regia*** ( H.B. & K.) Cooks  
Syn. : *Oreodoxa regia* H. B. & K.  
Family : Arecaceae  
Leaf : Leaves pinnatisect

A native of Cuba, West Indies. The genus is a commemorative name. The species in Latin means royal or kingly.

A tall, elegant and graceful, spineless palm with a columnar bole. Trunk solitary, erect, robust, swollen at the middle and covered with a white secretion all over. Leaves large, terminal with smaller leaflets. Flowers small, white or straw-coloured in drooping clusters. Fruits globose, oblong, purplish. Propagation by seeds during rainy season immediately after harvesting.

The species is well acclimatised in the country as one of the finest matured specimens often seen in old palaces and buildings. even where the civil structures are in a dilapidated condition with the passage of time.

Grown on the sides of the avenues, passages or pathways giving a charming beauty to the surroundings.

Location : Plots 2,4,5,7,8,9.  
Population : 7.



## **OTHER ORNAMENTALS**

## ***Adenium obesum***

Desert rose

A native of Arab and tropical Africa. The generic name denotes the place of origin while the species refers to the obese nature of the stem base.

A dwarf shrubby succulent with abnormal and curious swollen stem base. Leaves clustered at the tip of the branches 8-10 cm long, 2-3 cm wide. Flowers many on terminal clusters, funnel-shaped, light to deep pink in colour, margins fringed darker in colour, 5-6 cm across.

***Adenium obesum*** (Forssk.) Roem ex Schult.

Family	: Apocynaceae
Leaf	: Leaves simple, sessile, oblong, glabrous
Flower	: In corymb inflorescence

The species is ornamental for its peculiar and variable swollen base exhibiting spectacular appearance. It is

considered as one of the loveliest house plants with attractive blossoms. Also well suited for rock gardens.

Flowering from June to October. Propagation by seeds. A few plants are grown in the rock-garden.

Location : Plot 3, 5. Population : 5.

## ***Bambusa nana***

Dwarf bamboo

Bengali : *Choto bans*

A native of China and Japan and cultivated in India and Sri Lanka. The genus *Bambusa* has originated from a Malayan vernacular name. The species means short or dwarf.

A dwarf bushy plant with densely tufted stems branched from base, yellow followed by green and thickened nodes. Stem-sheaths broad and stiff, narrow upwards. Leaves linear, lance-shaped, small. Propagation by suckers or by seeds after flowering and seed setting.

***Bambusa nana*** Roxb.

Family	: Bambusaceae
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The plant is grown in the garden as specimen and in hedges.

Location : Plot 4. Population : 3.

### ***Bambusa ventricosa***

Buddha's belly

Bengali : *Ghati bans*

An uncommon bamboo species popularly known as Buddha's belly. It is named so because of the fact that the swollen internodes of the culms are very close together, constricted and rounded in a characteristic way.

A medium-sized plant of 6-7 m. high, slow growing. Stem dark green, thick and hardy. Leaves allied to other bamboos but shorter. Propagation by division of clumps and stem cuttings.

<b><i>Bambusa ventricosa</i></b> Mc Clure Family : Bambusaceae
---

The species is grown in the garden as an ornamental and decorative plant.

Location : Plots 2, 3, 6. Population : 5.

### ***Bambusa vulgaris***

Golden bamboo

Bengali : *Halud bans*, Hindi : *Bansini*

It is believed to be a native of Java. The cultivated plant is a variegated form of *B.vulgaris* which is commonly known as 'Basini bans' in Bengal, 'vulgaris' in Latin meaning common.

A medium-sized handsome bamboo with slender, polished stem, bright yellow or yellow-green or mixed colours, 5-8 cm diam., walls thin. Leaves long, green and pointed at the tips.

<b><i>Bambusa vulgaris</i></b> Schrad var. <i>aureo-variegata</i> Family : Bambusaceae
---

yellow or yellow-green or mixed colours, 5-8 cm diam., walls thin. Leaves long, green

Cultivated in the garden as an ornamental bamboo.

Location : Plot . 2, 4. Population : 3.

### ***Cordyline* sp.**

Dracaena palm

The genus differs from *Dracaena* by having a number of ovules in each cell of the ovary. *Dracaena* contains solitary ovule.

The generic name is from the Greek 'kordyle' for club-like, referring to fleshy roots.

A greenhouse plant closely resembling *Dracaena*.

***Cordyline* sp.**

Family : Agavaceae

Tall palmlike stems with large crowded leaves and clustered flowers.

Propagation by cuttings of defoliated ripe stems and also by seeds.

Handsome foliage plants commonly used for both indoor and outdoor plantations in gardens.

Location : Plots 3, 8. Population : 2.

### ***Crinum amabile***

Crinum lily

Bengali : *Nagdun*

A native of Sumatra. *Crinum* indicates Greek name for a lily. The species refers to its lovely flowers.

A large and showy bulbous flowering plant. Leaves strap-shaped, 25 - 30 to a bulb. Flowers fragrant, 20-30 in an inflorescence with crimson centre band,

***Crinum amabile* Donn.**

Family : Amaryllidaceae

Flower : Flowers in umbel  
inflorescence,  
perianth colourful

coloured purplish-red outside, tube bright red. Flowering mostly in June - July. Propagation by bulb and offsets.

Used in garden as an ornamental flowering bulbous plant. There are several other species under the genus *Crinum* and their varieties well suited for growing in warm temperate and tropical regions.

Location : Plot 10. Population : 1.

## *Cycas circinalis*

Fern-palm

Bengali : *Cycas*, Hindi : *Jangli-madan-mast-ka-phul*

A native of the Indian subcontinent and tropical Africa. It is called the 'Queen sago' or 'Fern-sago' for its graceful fronds (leaves). The genus originates from a Greek word *Kykas*.

A majestic palm-like evergreen tree. Trunk cylindrical with the scar of fallen leaves on rough trunk, 3-4 m high, more heads on age. The tree closely resembles those of other *Cycas* except fronds and heads. Leaves crowded at the top, 2 m long, pinnae 30 cm long, 1 cm wide.

*Cycas circinalis* L.

Family : Cycadaceae

Cones appear in hot season. Propagated from seeds and suckers.

Grown in the garden for its graceful and shining foliage.

Location : Plot 8. Population : 1.

Other *Cycas* species in the garden are :

### 1. *Cycas revoluta*

Sago-palm

Bengali : *Cycas*

A native of Japan and popularly known as 'Fern Sago' or Japanese 'Sago'. Some suggest that it is a native to Java.

One of the hardiest, graceful, popular, unbranched sago-palm. Slowly forming trunk may reach up to 3m. The fronds (leaves) are numerous, stiff, dark-

*Cycas revoluta* Thunb.

Family : Cycadaceae

green and each of the segments ends in stiff spine, deeply cut leaves, more than 1m in length, leaflets 10 cm long. Plant dioecious, (separate male and female plant). Male plant bears narrow pine-like cones which produce sporangia (pollen) and female plant produces seeds with a large cone. Propagation by seeds and division of sucker.

Grown in the garden for its attractive foliage and form.

Location : Plots 2, 3. Population : 8.

## 2. *Cycas rumphii* Miq.

A native of Indian archipelago. The generic name in Greek *Kykas* indicates name of a palm tree. The species is named in honour of G. E. Rumpf., a Dutch botanist,

It is a handsome, evergreen, palm-like plant adequately branched, attaining a height of 4m and above bearing large crown of leaves. Leaves upto 2.5 m.

<i>Cycas rumphii</i> Miq. Family : Cycadaceae
--

Stem of male plant is divided two to three times, not common in female plant. Male cones cylindric, ovoid. Seeds ellipsoid. Propagation by seeds. External outgrowths (bulbils) also regenerate in suitable rooting

media.

A widely cultivated species of *Cycas* grown in tropical and subtropical gardens as plants of ornamental and educative value. Found in Bengal, South India and Andaman Islands. A sago is extracted from the trunk.

Location : Plot 1. Population : 1.

## *Dendrocalamus giganteus*

A native of Myanmar. The genus is coined from two Greek words collectively meaning reeded trees. The species signifying its gigantic growth.

<i>Dendrocalamus giganteus</i> Family : Bambusaceae
--

One of the largest kinds of arborescent unarmed bamboos.

Propagation by division of clumps before annual growth.

A species of immense economic importance for its enormous domestic uses and preparation of decorative items.

Location : Plots 5, 6. Population : 2.

## *Dracaena fragrans*

Dracena

The genus differs from *Cordyline* in having larger flowers and solitary ovule in each cell of ovary. *Cordyline* contains several ovules in each cell of the ovary.

A native of tropical Africa. The generic name probably refers to female dragon for its dried juice is supposed to resemble dragon's blood. The species is indicative to its odorous flowers and juice.

<i>Dracaena fragrans</i> Family : Dracaenaceae
---

An arborescent plant with large, green and

shining leaves, spreading or recurved. Flowers yellowish-long clusters. Fruits (berries) orange-red.

Propagation by division of suckers, node and terminal cuttings of stems and gootie.

Cultivated in Indian gardens for its ornamental foliage.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6, 8, 9. Population : 24.

The other *Dracaena* found in the garden is *D. surculosa* Lindl., also a native of tropical Africa.

Location : Plots 5, 6. Population : 2.

### ***Heliconia rostrata***

Parrot-beaked heliconia

A rhizomatous, perennial, herbaceous plant, 2-3 m high. Leaves allied to *Musa* or banana. Inflorescence pendulous, 30 cm long, emerging from the growing tip. Colourful bracts arranged in a zig-zag pattern with brilliant shade of scarlet and lemon-yellow edges. Flowers inconspicuous, concealed inside the sheath. Flowering during summer and rain. Propagation by division of clumps.

<b><i>Heliconia rostrata</i></b>
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Family : Musaceae
-------------------

It is grown in the garden for attractive bracts which are used in vase decoration.

Other species of *Heliconia* growing in this garden are :

*H. humilis* (Lobster claw) : A large plant, 2-3 m high. Inflorescence upright, bracts hardy, boat-shaped, bright-red in colour with greenish edge.

*H. psittacorum* : A small plant, 1-1.5 m high. Leaves small, narrow, lance-shaped. Inflorescence on long, hard stalk, bracts light, orange-yellow, narrow. Flowers greenish-yellow. Very showy for floral decoration.

Location : Plots 1, 2, 6. Population -50.



An Excerpt from  
**BRITISH GOVERNMENT**  
**IN INDIA**

**The Story of the Viceroys and Government Houses**

By  
**THE MARQUIS CURZON OF KEDLESTON, K.G.**

*Viceroy and Governor General of India*  
Jan. 1899–May 1904, and Dec. 1904–Nov, 1905

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*VOLUME ONE*

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CASSELL AND COMPANY LTD.  
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1925

## GOVERNMENT HOUSE : EXTERIOR

The Southern garden, now so pretty with its great expanse of *dhoub* grass, backed by leafy walks and winding ponds, only began to assume its present form under the fostering care of Lady Mayo and Lady Lytton. A photograph shows what it was like when the former began to plant. Other Governors General or their ladies had tried their hand, but all in vain. There is rather a pathetic passage in one of the letters of Miss Emily Eden, sister of Lord Auckland, dated 14th April, 1841, in which she says :

“Lady Amherst made a magnificent garden round the house, which stands in the centre of what we call a huge compound. Lady William Bentinck said flowers were very unwholesome, and had everything rooted out the first week. I never thought of restoring it till last year, and now it is all done very economically, and only on one side of the house, and at a considerable distance. I am just finishing two little fish-ponds.”<sup>1</sup>

I am afraid that Miss Eden’s horticultural embellishments went the way of their predecessors—such are the vicissitudes of a nomad occupation and of Viceregal life. When, however, the final attempt was made, in the two reigns to which I have referred, Lady Mayo began the planting, Lord Lytton constructed the ornamental water and rustic bridge, as well as the raised mound, at the Southern extremity of the garden, and in the two years 1877-8 and 1878-9 we find an allotment of over Rs. 11,000 for these purposes. I deepened the ponds which had become silted up, but made few other alterations.

Once a year this garden was thrown open to Calcutta society for the State Garden Party, which was attended by between 1500 and 2000 persons, European and Indian, but, like all garden parties, was a somewhat depressing function. Later on this entertainment was sometimes given in the evening. At that hour great flying foxes or bats used to lurch from tree to tree (they have since been scared away); towards midnight jackals emerged from the drains and howled in the shrubberies, and stinking civet cats would clamber up the pillars or pipes to the roof of Government House. There they liked to linger, sometimes descending at night and even entering the bedrooms on the Southern side, in surreptitious search of food or drink. We shot several of these horrid creatures creeping along the frieze under the parapet in the moonlight, and their successors have since been trapped and extirpated. In the day time the garden used to contribute to the beauty, though not to the peacefulness, of the scene with clouds of green parroquets which would fly shrieking past the windows and settle upon the cornice of the house. The dense belt of bamboos, palms, and other tropical verdure that had grown up all round the garden served another purpose besides that of a screen; for it sufficed to shelter a regular colony of native *malis* or gardeners, of whom there were between 30 and 40 living in mat-huts in the compound completely hidden from view.

<sup>1</sup> “Miss Eden’s Letters” (ed. V. Dickinson), 1919, p. 340.

An Excerpt  
from

THE STORY  
OF  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

*by*

**N. V. H. Symons**, M.C., I.C.S.

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Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal

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MCMXXXV

1935

It would be difficult to give an account of the trees in the compound without introducing a large number of botanical terms conveying almost nothing to the layman. It is proposed therefore to mention only those which are of especial interest or beauty singling out one specimen of each which can be easily indicated and leaving it to those who are interested to identify others of the same species wherever they may occur. For this purpose the following description takes the form of a walk round the grounds starting from the Grand Staircase on the North of the house. On either side of the Grand Staircase is a tall palm tree covered with creeper. These are Royal Palms\* (*Oreodoxa regia*) and they are over seventy years old. The creeper which covers them is of the fig category, called *Ficus repens*\*. The creeper which covers the railings of the Grand Staircase is *Bignonia purpurea*\*\* . On the grass plots just in front of the curving wings of the house are groups of Ceylon Palm (*Chrysalidocarpus lutescens*\*) and growing up the wall under the pediment of the Grand Staircase are creepers called *Adenocalymna nitida*\*\*.

Near the corners of the lawns on either side of the Chinese gun are two trees planted in 1935 called *Caesalpinia crista*\* one of the most beautiful of Calcutta's cold-weather flowering trees which in five years' time will be a striking sight. The creepers on the lamp posts bordering the drive are mainly Bougainvillea\*. The large tree on the left or West side of the North Gate is the Rain Tree\* (*Pithecolobium saman*) a very handsome tree with a pretty pink flower and leaves that are sensitive to moisture, closing as soon as rain starts to fall. On the other side of the gate is the Asoka Tree\* (*Saraca indica*) whose foliage is faintly like that of a Brownea. From the North Gate to the North-West corner of the grounds the trees in the fringe are Debdars\*; *Sterculia alata*; Peepul (*Ficus religiosa*\*) and an Alexandrian Laurel (*Calophyllum inophyllum*\*) right in the North-West corner in front of a tall and rather ragged Casuarina\*. This laurel is a bushy tree with dark-green glossy leaves which in the monsoon and at the end of the cold weather puts out small very sweet scented white flowers.

The line of tall trees running South from the North-West corner of the grounds and screening the kitchen are Indian Cork trees (*Millingtonia hortensis*\*). Immediately on the South side of the North-West Gate is a clump of Giant Bamboos (*Dendrocalamus giganteus*\*). Walking along the drive past the West side of the house the two groups of palms that are seen on the left hand close to the house are Chinese Palms (*Livistona chinensis*\*) while the clump of trees on the right in the centre of the lawn between the two German guns is composed of Debdar, Jamun and Palm trees. Immediately to the West of this clump in the marginal fringe two very tall trees stand up. These are *Sterculia alata*\* and have

fine buttressed stems. Directly to the South of them is a small bushy tree with tiny light-green foliage called the Candle Tree (*Parmentiera cerifera*\*) which is very interesting because the flowers grow straight out of the trunk instead of at the ends of the branches and its fruit hangs down like bunches of tallow candles.

The flowering shrubs which line the North edge of the drive from the South-West corner of the house to the South-West Gate are Oleanders\* and the large tree overhanging the drive in front of the South-West Gate is the Mahua\* (*Bassia latifolia*) which has a very sweet smelling flower. Turning left by the South-West Gate and going down the footpath on the West of the Garden Party Lawn the first tree at the North-West corner of the lawn is the Debdar (*Polyalthia longifolia*\*) and between it and the bold clump of Chinese Palms ahead is a singularly beautiful tree— at present three years old— the *Gliricidia maculata*\*, which produces a pale pink blossom all along its leafless branches in March. Immediately to the West of the *Gliricidia*, in the fringe, the only tall tree is the White Silk-Cotton Tree\*\* (*Eriodendron anfractuosum*). About twenty yards before reaching the avenue which runs East and West there is, in the fringe, an interesting tree called the Looking Glass Tree (*Heritiera littoralis*\*). Its large leaves, silvery underneath, allow shadows to strike clearly on them in bright sunshine and give a dazzling effect when looked at from underneath. Turning left up the avenue which is lined on either side with handsome spreading fig trees of various kinds, the tall tree near the corner with grey bark and a buttressed stem is the Arjun (*Terminalia arjuna*\*), a smaller specimen standing opposite it. The third tree on the South side of the avenue is a fine specimen of the Talipot Palm (*Corypha umbraculifera*\*) with colossal leaves. Half way to the main central drive, a small winding path leads North. There are two trees on the Garden Party Lawn to the West of this path. The one nearest the Burmese gun is the Dhak or Flame of the Forest (*Butea frondosa*\*) and the round small tree between the Dhak and the avenue is a Brownea (*Brownea grandiceps*\*). Going along the avenue till the main South drive is reached a number of water lilies (*Nymphaea*\*) with red, white and yellow flowers are to be seen in the lakes as well as the giant water-lily of South America (*Victoria regia*\*). This has immense circular leaves from five to seven feet in diameter with three or four inches of upturned edge, and it was first introduced in 1933. It reproduced itself spontaneously for the first time in 1935. In the South-West corner of the East lake is a group of aquatic palms (*Nipa fruticans*\*). Turning right down the South drive and then right again long the winding footpath which skirts the South side of the West lake there is, close to the South drive, an uncommon palm called *Areca madagascarensis*\*. Turning left before reaching the bamboo tunnel leading to the bridge there is,

immediately in front, an African Oil Palm (*Elaeis guineensis*\*) standing up in the centre of a clump of Chinese Palms\*. This palm now reproduces itself spontaneously. Going on down the path towards the South gate there is on the left, on the South side of the triangular patch of grass, a small round-headed tree with thick leathery leaves called *Clusia rosea*\* and standing above the West side of the South gate is a Jamun Tree\* (*Eugenia jambolana*) which bears a juicy black fruit like a damson but with a peculiar flavour of its own.

Going back to the house up the South drive the main feature consists of two huge and magnificent India Rubber Trees (*Ficus elastica*\*) on either side of the drive close to the circle of guns. The creepers growing on the lamp posts in front of the Private Entrance are all *Jacquemontia violacea*\*, bearing a pretty blue flower except for the lamp posts which stand at the corners of the two wings. The left hand, or westerly, one is covered with *Bignonia venusta*\*\* while the right hand one is covered with *Bignonia unguis-cati*\*\*. Turning now to the right and going to the South-East gate there is a Frangipani or Temple-flower Tree (*Plumeria\* acutifolia*) at the corner of the shrubbery South of the gate and in the fringe to the South of the gate is a long line of tall Debdar trees. Another specimen Debdar mounts guard on the North-East corner of the lawn matching the one at the West end of the drive. A few yards South of this Debdar, on the lawn, is a *Cassia\* javanica* which bears lovely sweet-scented pink flowers in April and May. Halfway between the specimen Debdar and the Cassia is a Ceylon Palm between which and the Debdar in the forefront of the shrubbery is a good specimen of *Milettia\* ovalifolia* which is a fine sight in March when leafless and in full flower. Going now to the swimming bath, where there are two groups of Ceylon Palms known to be over 30 years old, there are several creepers on the pergolas round the pool. On the South pergola there is a creeper called *Adenocalymna nitida*\*\* with an orange-coloured flower, on the East front of the pool there is a sweet scented white creeper called *Stephanotis floribunda*\*\*, while on the North pergola there is first *Jacquemontia\**, then in the centre *Clematis flammula*\*\*, while to the West of this there is *Congea tomentosa\** and at the West end *Petrea volubilis*\*\* which bears beautiful blue flowers in March. Going on to the North-East gate there is a line of very tall upright trees stretching from the gate Northwards. The first tree in this line is *Putranjiva roxburghii* and near it are one or two Bead trees (*Adenanthera pavonina\**) in whose seed pods are bright scarlet shiny seeds used as beads and counters. The rest of the trees are Debdars. The large tree in the section of the fringe running from the North-East corner of the grounds to the North Gate is a Banyan (*Ficus bengalensis\**), a magnificent specimen of which is at Barrackpore. The smaller and more bushy

trees in this section are Asoka trees. Overhanging the room where the Visitors' Book is kept is a Neem Tree (*Melia azadirachta*\*) whose leaves and twigs have so many uses in India.

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\*

#### Notes :

Royal palms : Presently found at Plots : 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9; Population: 7.  
*Ficus repens* : Presently found at Plot : 9; Population: 4.  
*Chrysalidocarpus lutescens* : Presently found at Plot : 2; Population: 2.  
*Caesalpinia crista* : Presently found at Plot : 2; Population: 40.  
Bougainvillea : Presently found at Plots : 1 - 10; Population: 26.  
Rain Tree : Presently found at Plot : 7; Population: 1.  
Asoka Tree : Presently found at Plots : 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; Population: 9.  
*Polyalthia longifolia*: Presently found at Plots : 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8; Population: 17.  
*Ficus religiosa* : Presently found at Plots : 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; Population: 17.  
*Calophyllum inophyllum* : Presently found at Plots : 1, 2, 4; Population: 5.  
Casuarina : Presently found at Plots : 1, 2, 3; Population: 4.  
*Millingtonia hortensis* : Presently found at Plots : 1, 2, 3, 6, 7; Population: 17.  
*Dendrocalamus giganteus* : Presently found at Plots : 5, 6; Population: 2.  
*Livistona chinensis* (Chinese Palms) : Presently found at Plots : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8; Population: 108.  
*Sterculia alata* : Presently found at Plot : 2; Population: 2.  
*Parmentiera cerifera* : Presently found at Plots : 1, 6; Population: 2.  
Oleander : Presently found at Plots : 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9; Population: 14.  
Mahua : Presently found at Plots : 1, 3, 4, 6, 8; Population: 10.  
*Gliricidia maculata* : Presently found at Plots : 1, 4, 5, 6; Population: 5.  
*Heritiera littoralis* : Presently found at Plots : 4; Population: 1.  
*Terminalia arjuna* : Presently found at Plots : 2, 4; Population: 4.  
*Corypha umbraculifera* : Presently found at Plots : 2; Population: 1.  
*Butea frondosa* : Presently found at Plots : 2, 4; Population: 6.  
*Brownea grandiceps* : Presently found at Plots : 3, 5, 7; Population: 3.  
*Nymphaea* : Presently found at Plots : 1; Population: Varies seasonally.  
*Victoria regia* : Presently found at Plots : 1; Population: Varies seasonally.  
*Nipa fruticans* : Presently found at Plots : 1; Population: 1 (Compact Bush).

*Areca madagascarensis* (Madagascar palm) : Presently found at Plots : 2; Population: 2.  
*Elaeis guineensis* : Presently found at Plots : 1, 2, 3, 4; Population: 24.  
*Clusia rosea* : Presently found at Plots : 3; Population: 1.  
Jamun Tree : Presently found at Plots : 1, 2, 3, 6, 7; Population: 17.  
*Ficus elastica* : Presently found at Plots : 1, 2, 3; Population: 3.  
*Jacquemontia violacea* : Presently found at Plots : 2; Population: 3.  
*Plumeria* : Presently found at Plots : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; Population: 18.  
*Cassia* : Presently found at Plots : 1 - 8; Population: 30.  
*Milettia* : Presently found at Plots : 3, 4, 6; Population: 7.  
*Congea tomentosa* : Presently found at Plot : 5; Population: 1.  
*Adenantha pavonina* : Presently found at Plots : 1, 2, 4, 7, 9; Population: 12.  
*Ficus bengalensis* : Presently found at Plots : 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8; Population: 17.  
Neem Tree (*Azadirachta indica*)\*: Presently found at Plots : 1 - 3, 7; Population: 5.

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\*\* These trees are not found in the Raj Bhavan campus any more.

An Excerpt from

*Maie Casey*

MAIE CASEY

*Tides and Eddies*



*London*

MICHAEL JOSEPH

1966

## Calcutta

The crowded city of Calcutta surged round the sanctuary of Government House like turbulent waters round a rock.

As I have written, our garden was a haven for monkeys, snakes, and birds, from the sluggish vulture with its faint whining cry to the little crested hoopoe. The grounds were recognised by all these creatures as a safe and comfortable place in which to live or rest. They were protected by a wall of trees that screened them from the sounds and vibrations of the city.

We were not used to so many exotic trees with their tree-top elegance of scented flowers, often flowers without leaves. Round the edges of the lawns grew such vegetation as the Rain-tree whose pink blossoms closed up at the threat of rain, and the Candle\*-tree with flowers that drooped from the trunk instead of from branches and whose fruit hung down like bunches of candles. Here too were the Looking\*\*-glass tree that dazzled when we stood beneath it looking up at the silvery underside of its big leaves, the many rooted Banyan tree, and palms of great height with the rows of corrugations that counted their age.

Outside our garden the life of the city was hard, crushed down by the burdens of poverty and overcrowding and disease under an oppressive heat that lay like a moist blanket over us all.

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\* Candle-tree – *Parmentiera cereifera*

Plot : 1, 6, Population : 2

\*\* Looking glass tree – *Heritiera littoralis*

Plot : 4, Population : 1

An Excerpt from



PALACES  
OF THE  
RAJ

*MAGNIFICENCE AND MISERY  
OF THE  
LORD SAHIBS*



MARK BENCE - JONES

*London*

GEORGE ALLEN AND UNWIN LTD  
RUSKIN HOUSE MUSEUM STREET  
1973

The earlier inhabitants of Government House did without a garden, being surrounded by bare grass and expanses of gravel – which Lord Hastings, in 1818, imported all the way from Bayswater. Lady Amherst, the wife of the next Governor-General, laid out some magnificent flower beds; but they were swept away by her successor, Lady William Bentinck, who thought flowers unwholesome. There were further attempts at gardening by Emily and Fanny Eden, who kept house for their bachelor brother, Lord Auckland; and when Lady Canning arrived here in 1856 she found ‘Cape jessamine as high as shrubby laurels’, strongly scented roses, oleanders, euphorbias, and other flowers. But save for a few scattered palms there were still hardly any trees, so that, at the time of the Mutiny, passers-by could see, through the railings, the solitary figure of Lord Canning, pacing quickly round and round, the only exercise he permitted himself during those anxious months.

It was only after 1870 that a definite scheme of planting was put in hand by Lord and Lady Mayo, and continued by their successors, Lord Northbrook and Lord and Lady Lytton, so that by the ‘eighties there was a thick screen of trees, palms and bamboos to give seclusion, together with shady walks by ornamental pools and a raised mound. The immediate surroundings of the house remained open and formal, broad expanses of lawn, gravel and flower-bed liberally sprinkled with guns captured in various campaigns; the most spectacular of which was Chinese, mounted on a fearsome iron dragon.

**BOOKS ON PLANTS AND TREES  
AT THE RAJ BHAVAN LIBRARY, KOLKATA**

— A LIST —

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### **Glossary of technical terms used**

- Acuminate : Apex of leaf tapering to a point.
- Airlayering : A practice to cause root initiation on an overground part of a stem while still attached to the parent plant.
- Albumen : Any tissue within the seed coat other than the embryo itself - endosperm and perisperm, a store of food for the young plant.
- Alterative : Having power to alter.
- Alternate : Arrangement of leaves in which they are placed singly with change of side at each node i.e., coming one after the other by turns.
- Anthelmintic : A drug used for destroying or expelling intestinal worms.
- Anther : Sacklike structure of the male parts (stamens) of a flower that contains the pollen grains.
- Arborescent : Approaching the character of a tree.
- Aril : Fleshy or scaly appendage arising from the point of attachment of some seeds to the fruit and covering the seed.
- Astringent : Having power to contract organic tissues.
- Awn : Beard or short stiff hair of barley or similar process.
- Bark : The rind or outer leathery covering of the stem, branch or root.
- Berry : Many seeded fleshy or pulpy fruit arising from a single carpel.
- Bilious : Pertaining to or affected by bile.
- Bipinnate : Leaflets in a compound leaf borne on secondary axes arising from the rachis or midrib.
- Bract : A modified leaf bearing flowers in its axil.
- Budding : An operation consisting of inserting a single detached bud from a scion underneath the bark of the stock to get the desired character of the scion plant.
- Bulbil : Sporophylls producing special mechanisms for vegetative propagation, namely gammae or bulbils which consist of a proximal enlarged base and a distal short axis with several pairs of leaves. The distal portion may develop a sporophyte under favourable conditions.
- Bulbous : Plants possessing underground bulbs and allied forms which are modified stems.
- Buttress : A projecting support by outer roots at the base of a plant helping to keep it straight.

Calyx : The outermost whorl of floral leaves consisting of sepals.

Canopy : An overhanging covering or projections occupied by leaves and associated stems of a tree.

Capsule : A dry dehiscent fruit of more than one carpel.

Columnar : Pertaining to columns, long round bodies used as supports.

Cone : The typical flower (or fruit) or inflorescence of the coniferae, a more or less conical mass of scale like sporophylls set closely about an axis.

Coppice : A wood of small growth for periodical cutting : a wood of sprouts from cut stumps.

Coriaceous : Leathery leaf surface

Corolla : Inner whorl of floral leaves consisting of petals usually enlarged and attracting.

Crown : A cluster of leaves at the top portion of a tree forming a canopy.

Cyme : Any sympodial inflorescence, the main shoot ending in a flower, the successive flowers growing on successive lateral branches.

Deciduous : Leafless condition of the tree by shedding all the leaves at a certain period of the year.

Decoction : Crude extract of plant parts usually obtained by boiling or crushing in water or any other substance of liquid consistency.

Defoliated : Deprived of leaves either by plucking or by indured or natural fall.

Dentate : Toothed or notched.

Dichotomous : A division into two parts.

Disgitate : Consisting of several fingerlike sections.

Fimbriate : Having a narrow border.

Flaccid : Soft and weak

Genus : A taxonomic group of lower rank than a family consisting of closely related species or in extreme cases one species only.

Glabrous : Leaf surface smooth, free from hairs and any outgrowths.

Globose : Spherical

Gootie : See air layering.

Grafting : The process and operation of inserting a part of one plant into another or placing it upon another in such a way that a union is formed and the combination continues growth.

Habitat : Normal abode or locality i.e., natural growing place of a plant or animal.

Hermaphrodite : Having organs of both sexes, whether normally or abnormally.

Hypanthodium : Special type of inflorescence where the flowers are embedded in the inner walls of the cavity of a tubular structure formed by the floral axis.

Inflorescence : Collection of a single or a number of flowers on an axis or disc.

Kernels : A seed within a hard shell or the edible part of a nut.

Lanceolate : Tapering towards both ends and two or three times as long as broad, shaped like a lance.

Layering : A method of inducing rooting in plant parts attached to the mother plant and supported by it until it develops its own root system.

Lobed : Segmental division of a leaf.

Monoecious : Male and female flowers borne separately but on the same plant.

Mulberry : The edible multiple fruit of any tree of the genus *Morus* - the tree bearing it having leaves on which silkworms feed.

Nectar : Honey bearing sac of a flower.

Oblique : A leaf asymmetrical about the midrib.

Oblong : Nearly elliptical with sides nearly parallel, ends blunted, two to four times as long as broad.

Obovoid : Leaf blade broader at the apex than at the base, the reverse of ovate.

Obtuse : Blunt or rounded at the tip of leaves.

Ovary : The part of the gynaecium (female reproductive organ) that contains the ovule.

Ovate : Egg shaped leaf base broadest below the middle.

Ovule : Female reproductive units in flowering plants which on fertilisation becomes the seed. It is an undeveloped seed.

Panicle : Flowers borne in acropetal succession on the branches of a repeatedly branched flowering axis.

Perianth : Calyx and corolla together especially when not clearly distinguishable forming a floral leaf.

Persistent : Remaining after the usual time of falling off; withering or disappearing.

Petiole : Leaf - stalk.

Phyllode : A petiole with the appearance and function of a leaf blade.

Pinnate : Leaflets in a compound leaf arranged alternately or in an opposite manner on each side of an axis or rachis.

Pinnatisect : Pinnately cut nearly to the midrib.

Pod : Dry monocarpellary fruit developed from a superior one chambered ovary dehiscing by both the sutures ( also called legumes ).

Prostrate : Trailing, procumbent.

Pubescent : Having soft covering of adpressed hairs.

Pulp : Fleshy soft inner portion (mesocarp) of a fruit.

Raceme : An indefinite inflorescence in which stalked flowers are borne in acropetal succession on an unbranched main stalk or growing axis.

Resinous : Of the nature of resin of the lustre of resin.

Rootstalk : In a grafted material the stalk which provides the root system.

Ruminate : Mottled as if chewed.

Scabrous : Rough with projecting points.

Serrated : Leaf margin notched like the teeth of a saw.

Sessile : Stalkless.

Spadix : A spike in which flowering axis is fleshy and enclosed by bracts or spathes.

Spathe : Enlarged bract surrounding completely a flower or a cluster of flowers usually protecting organ.

Species : A group of individuals having common characteristics specialised from others of the same genus.

Spheroid : An object nearly spherical or ball shaped.

Spike : An inflorescence in which sessile (non stalked) flowers or spikelets are arranged in acropetal succession on a long elongated growing axis.

Spiralled : With parts arranged in spirals.

Stamens : Male reproductive structure in a flower consisting of a filament and an anther where pollen grains are formed.

Stipule : A paired usually leafy, lateral appendage at the base of petiole.

Stump : The part of a felled or fallen tree left in the ground.

Sucker : Lateral branches developing from underground portions of a stem giving rise to new plants.

Trichotomous : Forking in threes.

Trifoliate : Three leaflets articulated to the petiole terminally.

Trunk : The main stem of a tree on which it is fixed to the soil.

Undulate : Wavy.

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