

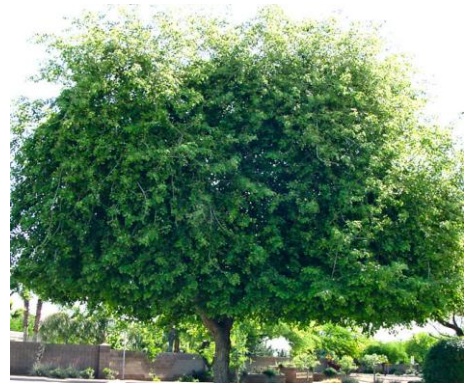
Dalbergia sissoo

Botanical Name: *Dalbergia sissoo*

Common Name: Sheesham, Tahli and Tali

Morphological Characteristics:

D. sissoo is a medium to large deciduous tree with a light crown which reproduces by seeds and suckers. It can grow up to a maximum of 25 m (82 ft) in height and 2 to 3 m (6 ft 7 in to 9 ft 10 in) in diameter, but is usually smaller. Trunks are often crooked when grown in the open. Leaves are leathery, alternate, pinnately compound and about 15 cm (5.9 in) long. Flowers are whitish to pink, fragrant, nearly sessile, up to 1.5 cm (0.59 in) long and in dense clusters 5–10 cm (2.0–3.9 in) in length. Pods are oblong, flat, thin, strap-like 4–8 cm (1.6–3.1 in) long, 1 cm (0.39 in) wide and light brown. They contain 1–5 flat bean-shaped seeds 8–10 mm (0.31–0.39 in) long. They have a long taproot and numerous surface roots which produce suckers. Young shoots are downy and drooping; established stems with light brown to dark gray bark to 2.5 cm (0.98 in) thick, shed in narrow strips; large upper branches support a spreading crown.



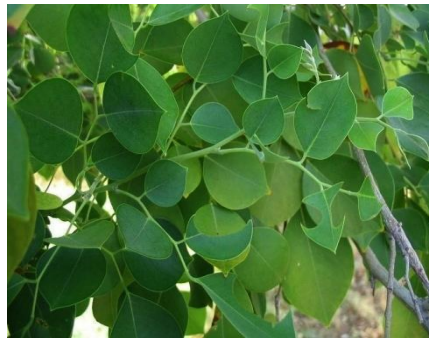
Growing season and Type:

1. At 9 months, *D. sissoo* starts producing flowers profusely.
2. The small bisexual flowers are borne on small branches from the leaf axis. Little is known of pollination biology and breeding system.
3. The species appears to be insect pollinated, and trees can apparently be both self- and out-crossing to varying degrees, depending on local conditions.
4. Flowering closely follows leaf flushing; leaves fall and young flower buds appear with new leaves followed by complete pod formation and maturity.
5. Mature pods remain attached to the tree for 7-8 months and are then dispersed by wind and water.
6. Timber tree, the young branches and foliage eaten by livestock. After teak, it is the most important cultivated timber tree in India, planted on roadsides, and as a shade tree for tea plantations.
7. Sissoo makes first class cabinetry and furniture. It is used for plywood, agricultural, and musical instruments, skis, carvings, boats, floorings, etc. The leaves are used for fodder.



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- 1) Flower of *Dalbergia sissoo*
- 2) Leaf of *Dalbergia sissoo*
- 3) *Dalbergia sissoo* tree



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