

## *Melia azedarach*

**Botanical Name:** *Melia azedarach*

**Common Name:** White Cedar, Chinaberry Tree

### **Morphological Characters:**

The adult tree has a rounded crown, and commonly measures 7–12 metres (20–40 ft) tall, however in exceptional circumstances *M. azedarach* can attain a height of 45 metres (150 ft). The leaves are up to 50 centimetres (20 in) long, alternate, long-petioled, two or three times compound (odd-pinnate); the leaflets are dark green above and lighter green below, with serrate margins. The flowers are small and fragrant, with five pale purple or lilac petals, growing in clusters. The fruit is a drupe, marble-sized, light yellow at maturity, hanging on the tree all winter, and gradually becoming wrinkled and almost white.



### **Growing Season and Type:**

1. White Cedar is often planted as a shade tree because of its dense leaf covering.
2. The fragrant lilac flowers and yellow fruits of the White Cedar make it an appealing ornamental tree.
3. The plant prefers open sun and can do well in partial shade too. It is hardy to most frosts and can withstand extended dry period. It can also adapt to a wide range of soil conditions.
4. White Cedar flowers during autumn and fruits are produced thereafter, usually from March to August.



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