

Pterospermum acerifolium

Botanical name: *Pterospermum acerifolium*

Common name: Kanak Champa, Bayur Tree,

Morphological characters:

The *Pterospermum acerifolium* produces large, white, finger shaped flowers in the spring. Flowers begin as one long bud, then separating into five more slender sepals as it matures. Each sepal can be up to seven inches long. The flowers are nocturnal and exceptionally fragrant, thus attracting moths for pollination. Successfully pollinated flowers produce a fruit in the form of a hard capsule. The fruit has a very rough texture and is sometimes covered in brown hairs. Fruits can take a very long time to completely mature; up to an entire year. The capsule then splits open releasing a massive number of “winged seeds.” Because it takes such a long period to reproduce, it seems the *P. acerifolium* can be outcompeted by other faster growing plants. Leaf edges are commonly dentate (toothed) or irregularly lobed. Many leaves tend to droop downward, giving the tree the appearance that it is wilting, when in fact it could have a sufficient amount of water available. The top side of the leaves is a dark green color with a glabrescent texture. The leaves are rough and rubbery to limit the loss of moisture in a hot climate. The bottom side of the leaves range from a silver to rust color and are pubescent. The bark of the tree is grey in color and is considered to be fairly soft. Small twigs and new growth can sometimes seem feathery and are commonly more of a rusty-brown color.



Growing season and type:

1. These seeds have already been thoroughly cleaned and should be sown into a well-drained, sandy compost at any time of the year, and covered thinly with sand or grit and kept moist.
2. Keep at between 20-25°C.
3. Seeds sometimes germinate within 4 to 6 weeks although some varieties may take very much longer so please be patient.
4. Plant out in the open ground in warmer countries or in a large container elsewhere.



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1. Flower of *Pterospermum acerifolium*

2. Leaves of *Pterospermum acerifolium*

3. Stem of *Pterospermum acerifolium*