

Santalum album

Botanical name: *Santalum album*

Common name: Indian sandalwood

Morphological characters:

Santalum album is a small evergreen tree that grows to 4 m in Australia, but in India it is much larger and can grow to a height of 20 m; girth of up to 2.4 m, with slender drooping branchlets. Bark is tight, dark brown, reddish, dark grey or nearly black, smooth in young trees, rough with deep vertical cracks in older trees, red inside. Leaves thin, usually opposite, ovate or ovate elliptical, 3-8 x 3-5 cm, glabrous and shining green above, glaucous and slightly paler beneath; tip rounded or pointed; stalk grooved, 5-15 cm long; venation noticeably reticulate. Flowers purplish-brown, small, straw coloured, reddish, green or violet, about 4-6 mm long, up to 6 in small terminal or axillary clusters, unscented in axillary or terminal, paniculate cymes. Fruit a globose, fleshy drupe; red, purple to black when ripe, about 1 cm in diameter, with hard ribbed endocarp and crowned with a scar, almost stalk less, smooth, single seeded.



Growing season and type:

1. Flower panicles appear from March to April in India, and fruits ripen in the cold season; in Australia flowers appear in December to January and also June to August, and mature fruit is available from June to September.
2. The species is spread rapidly through seed dispersal by birds, which feed on the outer fleshy pericarp.
3. Viable seed production occurs when the tree is 5 years old.



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1. Flowers of *Santalum album*
2. Leaves of *Santalum album*
3. *Santalum album* tree

Source:

<http://www.flowersofindia.net/catalog/slides/Sandalwood.html>