

Persian Lilac

**Common name:** Indian Lilac, Persian Lilac, Cape Lilac, Chinaberry, Syringa Berrytree, Pride of India, Bead tree

**Botanical name:** *Melia azedarach*

**Family:** Meliaceae

Name in Tamil: *Malai vembu maram, puvembu*



**Field identification:** Medium sized, deciduous tree with a well rounded crown usually 7-12 m. bark dark grey or brown, cracked /vertical fissures. Leaves, fern- like, long, alternate, long stalk, compound 2 or 3 times (odd pinnate), turn yellow before falling. Leaflets with serrate margins, dark green above, light green below. Flowers small, fragrant, lilac in clusters. Fruit, a drupe (stone fruit), marble-sized, hang on tree.

**Location on campus:** Entrance to Oval Ground, Stem Cell Centre

**References:** (i) Randhawa M.S (1983) Flowering trees. New Delhi, National Book Trust. P168-170.(ii) Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melia\\_azedarach](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melia_azedarach). (iii) Flowers of India. <http://www.flowersofindia.net>