

Pradip Krishen's list

100 most suitable
trees for Delhi (NCR)



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Why I chose these 100 trees

If you plant 'right', you maximize the chances of your tree surviving. But what does planting 'right' mean? It means matching the needs of the tree with the conditions you plant it in – the type of soil, the moisture regime (wet/dry), and of course, the climate.

We know what Delhi's climate is like. Searingly hot in summer, cold in winter with around 60 cm of rain a year, almost all of it falling between July and early September. So most of the year is dry, and this is an important limiting factors for a tree to survive (without assistance) in this city.

The soil is not uniform all over Delhi. The Ridge, for example, is rocky and thin-soiled and only trees able to cope with severe drought are likely to survive in Ridge-like conditions. Closer to the river where the soil is deep and loamy is a zone capable of sustaining a lot more trees. The city is a mosaic of micro-habitats. And it's important to try and find out which part of the mosaic your yard or garden or farm belongs to in order to plant 'right'.

In general, native trees work best because native trees have evolved over millions of years to adapt to particular conditions found here. Some of you will want to know why I have not chosen any cultivated exotics that do well in Delhi... Such as the *Chorisia* or Mexican silk cotton, or *Kigelia* the sausage tree. Well, it should be obvious by now that I lean heavily in favour of planting native trees. Sure, there is place for cultivated exotics, especially in small spaces where you are able to tend to their special needs. I could enumerate some of the beautiful flowering exotic trees that do well in Delhi – but that would be another much shorter list than this one.

Pradip Krishen





How to use this booklet

Common name
Scientific name
Family name

kummatth
Pea family
Acacia senegal

May - June May - June

When new leaves appear
Flowering season

57

Water dependency
Leaf type

The leaf key



Simple untoothed leaf
A simple leaf not toothed at the margins.



Simple toothed leaf
A simple leaf with toothed margins.



Simple lobed leaf
A simple leaf deeply lobed along its margins.



The best way to tell a simple leaf from a compound leaf is the presence of a leaf-bud growing in its axil. If a leaf-bud is present then it's a leaf and if not, it's a leaflet.



Compound digitate leaf
Compound leaves with two to three leaflets.



Compound pinnate leaf
The leaf's central axis divides only once into leaflets.



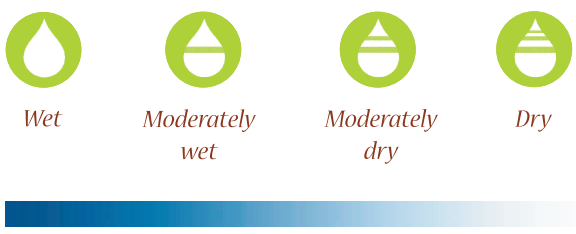
Compound twice pinnate leaf
The leaf's common axis divides once into side stalks and into leaflets.





How to use this booklet

Water dependency



Wet denotes a tree that is adapted to living in moist habitats (in dry forests). You must plant such trees near waterbodies, in their wet zone.

Moderately wet denotes a tree that requires relatively less water than the previous category. It will probably require deep watering once a week in the dry season.

Moderately dry denotes a tree that is adapted to slightly more water than Delhi's climate has to offer. Only slightly more. Chances are you will have to water this tree but not more than once a month in the dry season.

Dry denotes a tree that is perfectly adapted to Delhi's ecology. Once it is established, it should need no watering or looking after at all.

May - June

Omission of flowering season for figs

The flowers of fig-trees are hidden inside the figs, and cannot be seen till the fig is opened and inspected. For this reason, information on the flowering season of fig-bearing trees (*Ficus* species) has not been included in this booklet.

goonja

Mango family
Lannea coromandelica

01

February - March May - June



A large frost-tender, fire-resistant tree which demands strong light. Big clusters of tiny greenish yellow flowers are borne at the ends of bare leafless twigs. It's a source of 'jhingani' gum used in printing.

amda

Mango family
Spondias pinnata

02

February - March May - June



Wild Mango is a middle-sized tree best known for its mango-like fruit which is used in culinary preparations. Leaves turn bright yellow in November and December. Amda needs a moist site.



kaari

Custard apple family
Milusa tomentosa

03

May - June April - June



A medium-sized tree with crisscross ridges on its bark similar to those on Bakain and a cluster of green to purple edible fruit that help in identifying it. Kaari thrives on dry and moist sites.

kuda

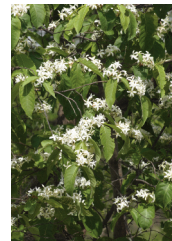
Oleander family
Holarrhena pubescens

04

April - May April - May



A medium-sized tree with beautiful white fragrant frangipani-like flower clusters. Kuda grows in the shade and tolerates dry conditions. Most parts of this tree are used in Ayurveda. Avoid shade for saplings. Grows well in all soils.



daira

Oleander family
Wrightia arborea

05

✿ April - June 🌿 April - May



This is a small fast-growing tree with thick velvety leaves and off-white flowers with an orange centre. The speckled pods are joined lengthwise. The bark is an antidote for snakebite and scorpion stings.



doodhi

Oleander family
Wrightia tinctoria

06

✿ April - June 🌿 March - April



A slow-growing native with star-shaped flowers that leave a waft of sweet fragrance. It yields a blue dye called pala Indigo and its sap can increase the shelf life of milk. Doodhi tolerates a wide variety of soils but not drought or frost.

khajoori

Palm family
Phoenix sylvestris

07

✿ January - February 🌿 Year long



Almost all parts of this hardy, fast-growing native tree are used. The sap is used in making palm jaggery. A neglected tree in Delhi, khajoori bears male and female flowers on separate trees. It tolerates full sun, frost and drought.

hingot

Hingot family
Balanites roxburghii

08

✿ April - May 🌿 Late March



A small, thorny native tree found in the Ridge area, Hingot is commonly found in open sandy plains and drier parts like Rajasthan. Hingot fruit is eaten by nilgai, jackals and porcupines. This tree is intolerant of shade.



medsingi

Jacaranda family
Dolichandrone falcata

09

✿ May - June 🌿 March - April



The name 'medsingi' is due to the tree's pods that are curved like a sheep's horns. It is a small, hardy, slow-growing deciduous tree with fragrant flowers and is well adapted to growing in poor soils.



akashneem

Jacaranda family
Millingtonia hortensis

10

✿ April & December 🌿 April - May



A tall ornamental tree that bears long, hanging white flowers twice a year with a pleasant lingering fragrance. Its leaves are neem-like. It grows in various soil types and climates with a preference for moist sites.



roheda

Jacaranda family
Tecomella undulata

11

✿ February - March 🌿 February - March



Commonly known as 'desert teak,' this hardy native tree bears beautiful showy flowers in yellow, orange and red. Roheda can withstand extreme temperatures and is fire-resistant and frost-hardy.

semal

Semal family
Bombax ceiba

12

✿ February - March 🌿 April



A large towering tree with voluptuous waxy blooms ranging from yellow to scarlet, pollinated mostly by bats. Semal avoids heavy clay soils and does not withstand waterlogging.

lasuda

Lasora family
Cordia dichotoma

I3

✿ April 🌿 Early April



Lasuda is a fast-growing, middle-sized tree that looks particularly beautiful in the monsoon. Its flowers open only at night and it does well in both moist and dry conditions but prefers deep moist and sandy loam soils.

dahi-palash

Lasora family
Cordia macleodii

I4

✿ March - April 🌿 April - May



A medium-sized tree with fragrant flowers. Gond folklore attributes its rarity to it being cut down indiscriminately by British to make the bark unavailable for healing the wounds of Gond soldiers.

goondi

Lasora family
Cordia sinensis

I5

✿ April - June 🌿 March - April



A small, fast-growing tree found in hot and dry woodland, along rivers and on termite mounds. The edible fruit are also eaten by monkeys and birds.

pania

Lasora family
Ehretia acuminata

I6

✿ April 🌿 March



Pania prefers well-drained and moist soil. This frost-tender, fast-growing tree with edible fruit cannot grow in shade. It has a dense spray of sweet-scented flowers that draw attention to this tree.

chamrod

Lasora family
Ehretia laevis

17

✿ March 🌿 February - March



A fire-resistant and frost-tolerant, medium-sized tree with white, star-shaped flowers. Pea-sized, orange edible berries grow in clusters. Chamrod is propagated by seed and root suckers.



salai

Salai family
Boswellia serrata

18

✿ February - March 🌿 May - June



Known as the Indian Frankincense tree for its aromatic resin or 'dhoop' which is obtained from wounds in its trunk. Salai is frost-hardy and does well even in poor soils.

aamti

Cassia subfamily
Bauhinia malabarica

19

✿ September - November 🌿 May



This small fire-resistant tree, known as the 'Malabar orchid tree' has white or baby-pink flowers that are totally unlike those of kaniar and kachnar. Aamti likes more moisture than the other Bauhinias that grow in Delhi.

kaniar

Cassia subfamily
Bauhinia purpurea

20

✿ October - December 🌿 April - May



A smallish, nearly evergreen tree which tolerates frost and a wide range of soils. It does not withstand waterlogging, but is also the least drought hardy of our Bauhinias.



jhinjheri

Cassia subfamily
Bauhinia racemosa

21

✿ May 🌿 March



This tree has dense foliage, small creamish flowers and large woody pods. Jhinjheri is extremely drought-hardy, requiring less rainfall than all other Bauhinias in Delhi. It grows in a wide range of soils.



kachnar

Cassia subfamily
Bauhinia variegata

22

✿ March - April 🌿 May - June



A small tree with beautiful flowers and edible buds. Variety 'variegata' has purple flowers, unlike var. candida with white flowers. Kachnar inhabits rocky slopes, plateaux and valleys. It will not survive waterlogging.

amaltas

Cassia subfamily
Cassia fistula

23

✿ April - May & October 🌿 May - June



This medium-sized native tree is known for its arrestingly beautiful golden yellow flowers that Delhites are familiar with. It can tolerate poor and rocky soils. Young plants are sensitive to frost.



anjan

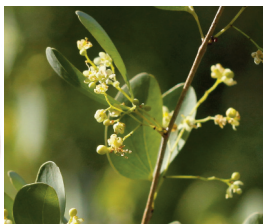
Cassia subfamily
Hardwickia binata

24

✿ August - September 🌿 April



A beautiful native tree with slender graceful branches and tiny leaves like a butterfly's wings. New leaves have a fiery glow. The tree thrives in a dry climate. It does not stand waterlogging and grows well on rocky or porous soils.



imli

Cassia subfamily
Tamarindus indica

✿ April - May 🌿 April - May

25



Often spotted on old highways and in villages for shade, the tangy fruits of this tree are an integral part of Indian cuisine. This hardy, near-evergreen tree can withstand strong winds but is frost-tender when young.



kair

Barna family
Capparis decidua

✿ March & August - September 🌿 March - April

26



Mentioned in the Mahabharat, this small tree remains mostly leafless and has pink, edible fruit and beautiful flowers. Adapted to rocky or sandy habitats, kair tolerates fire, frost, and saline or alkaline soils.

barna

Barna family
Crateva adansonii subsp. *odora*

✿ April 🌿 April - May

27



A small tree found in relatively shady sites near water. It tolerates frost well. Bare for a long time in the dry season. White flowers gradually turn yellow and trees look beautiful in full bloom.



kankera

Saffron family
Gymnosporia senegalensis

✿ April - June 🌿 March - April

28



A beautiful but barely noticed small and thorny tree. Its leaves are eaten by nilgais. Sweet-scented flowers are found in profuse clusters, sometimes growing on the spines.



ganiar

Ganiar family
Cochlospermum religiosum

29

February - March November



The term 'religiosum' refers to its large, fragrant, bright yellow flowers which are offered in temples. Ganiar has big shiny leaves. This slope loving tree is fire-resistant and tolerates impoverished soils.



chakwa

Arjun family
Anogeissus acuminata

30

June - September June



Chakwa grows in sandy and rocky plains. It is a tall tree with drooping branches also known as the 'button tree'. Before leaf fall the foliage turns a beautiful yellowish red. Its flowers are a lot like Dhau's.

dhavda

Arjun family
Anogeissus latifolia

31

July - September May - June



A hardy, tall and slow-growing tree that is a source of honey-coloured 'ghatti' gum. A bee-friendly tree which can be identified by its characteristic mottled bark. It prefers well-drained soils.

dhau

Arjun family
Anogeissus pendula

32

July - September June



Native to the Aravallis, dhau is valuable in afforestation of dry, rocky slopes and hills. This tree has small pretty leaves on drooping twigs and a silvery trunk. The tree responds to lopping by growing low and shrubby.



arjun

Arjun family
Terminalia arjuna

33

✿ April - May 🍃 April



A favorite roost of bats, arjun is usually found in dry forests growing along the banks of rivers and streams. It is planted near wells as the roots of this tree are believed to purify and cool the water in the wells.



baheda

Arjun family
Terminalia bellirica

34

✿ March - April 🍃 March - April



A tall tree with a massive canopy and tassels of fragrant flowers. Baheda grows best in well-drained, deep sandy loams and withstands moderate frost. The fruit is part of Triphala and the nuts find mention in Mahabharata.

bistendu

Ebony family
Diospyros cordifolia

35

✿ April 🍃 March



A lesser known tree in Delhi with lush and strikingly beautiful foliage provided it is watered. Otherwise it withstands drought well and produces small white blossoms, male and female on separate trees.

kamala

Amla family
Mallotus philippensis

36

✿ September - December 🍃 May - June



The kamala tree is medium-sized and native to the sub-Himalayan region but does fairly well in Delhi if it is watered. It is best known for the dye derived from its bright red fruit (only on female trees). It withstands shade well.



thhor

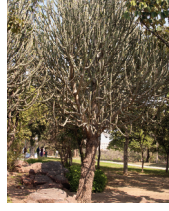
Amla family
Euphorbia nivulia

37

February - March May - June



A cactus-like succulent tree found on rocky ground. The spines are arranged in rows spirally on the trunk. Leafless for part of the year, thhor is a tree to grow on the most difficult rocky sites.



tumri

Amla family
Mallotus nudiflorus

38

February Late February



Tumri is a tree of medium height that grows in soil with good reserves of water. Female and male flowers appear on almost leafless branches on separate trees. The hard green fruit grow on long stalks.

palash

Pea subfamily
Butea monosperma

39

April - May March - April



It is said that this native Delhi tree with its fiery-orange blossoms is a form of Agnidev. In Bengal, spring is associated with these flowers. Palash withstands frost, waterlogging and poor soils.

shisham

Pea subfamily
Dalbergia sissoo

40

March - May February



Shisham prefers moist sites with alluvial soil but adapts to fairly dry conditions. It is frost-tolerant. The flowers are visited by bees. This tree is planted to reclaim eroding sites and as a windbreak.



tinsa

Pea subfamily
Desmodium oojainense

41

✿ February - March 🍃 April - May



A hardy, pretty tree from Indian dry forests with spectacular pink pea-like blossoms on bare branches just before the leaves emerge. It grows on poor soils. Young trees are frost-sensitive.



tota

Pea subfamily
Erythrina variegata

42

✿ April 🍃 March - April



This is a somewhat weak tree but its brilliant orange flowers (white, in one variety) on almost leafless branches more than make up for it. Tota tolerates a wide range of soil conditions and grows best in drier soils.

hadua

Pea subfamily
Erythrina suberosa

43

✿ March - April 🍃 June - July



A middle-sized prickly tree from dry sites in central Indian forests with a corky, deeply fissured bark and dense scarlet nectar-rich flower blossoms in clusters at the ends of branches. Birds visit the flowers for the nectar.



millettia

Pea subfamily
Millettia peguensis

44

✿ March - April 🍃 April



An ornamental medium sized tree also known as 'Jewels on a string' due to its exquisitely beautiful pink flowers. It is sensitive to frost but does well in dry conditions. This tree is easy to cultivate from seed.



karanj

Pea subfamily
Pongamia pinnata

45

✿ April - May 🌿 April



This tree is usually found in coastal areas or along streams in dry forests. A fast-growing, adaptable and a low maintenance native tree with pods that are a source of bio-diesel. Pea-like blossoms appear in white, lavender and pretty pink.



arni

Mint family
Clerodendrum phlomidis

46

✿ October - February - March 🌿 May - June



More usually a tall bush, arni can become a small tree that thrives in rocky or sandy tracts and wastelands. It bears one of Delhi's most fragrant flowers on a native tree, in dense clusters of white. Even its roots are aromatic.

gamhar

Mint family
Gmelina arborea

47

✿ March - April 🌿 March - May



A large fast-growing tree that can perhaps be mistaken for a peepal. It prefers moist but well-drained soils. Its bright yellow-brown flowers attract bees. Its wood ash was used in cave paintings centuries ago.



marodphali

Hibiscus family
Helicteres isora

48

✿ July - August 🌿 March



A small tree, usually only a bush, that inhabits dry, rocky sites. The fruit is cylindrical and spirally twisted giving it the name 'screw tree'. The beautiful red flowers attract birds and butterflies to this small tree. The petals turn blue on old flowers.



kulu

Hibiscus family
Sterculia urens

49

❁ December - March 🍃 May - Early June



A spreading, attractive tree with large leaves and a very pale trunk with peeling, papery bark. Karaya gum from this tree is used in the pharmaceutical and food industry and as a denture adhesive. Kulu can grow in stony and poor soils.



neem

Mahogany family
Azadirachta indica

50

❁ Mid April 🍃 March - April



A medium-sized tree that hardly needs to be described, neem is a tree that has innumerable uses from being a natural toothbrush to a pesticide. This tree does not tolerate water-logging and is frost-tender.

chukrassi

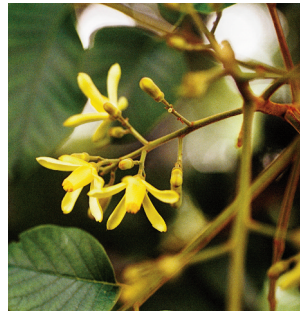
Mahogany family
Chukrassia tabularis

51

❁ April - May 🍃 March



A large tree with a spreading canopy. Fresh leaves are an attractive pale red, male and female flowers are borne on separate trees. Chukrassia does not like to grow in heavy and wet soils.



bakain

Mahogany family
Melia azedarach

52

❁ March - April 🍃 February



This tree is often mistaken for neem. Bakain is conspicuous when it is covered by bunches of yellow dry fruit on leafless branches. The tiny lilac flowers are pretty and fragrant. It is a highly adaptable tree.



khair

Mimosa subfamily
Acacia catechu

✿ May - August 🌿 End of May

53



A thin, thorny tree of modest height that is valued for the cutch (kathha) in its heartwood. Not very pretty in Delhi but wonderfully hardy and capable of growing in dry, rocky conditions.



ronjh

Mimosa subfamily
Acacia leucophloea

✿ August - October 🌿 March - April

54



A thorny tree with a spreading crown and round, white fluffy flowers that make the tree attractive in blossom. It grows in rocky or sandy soils but will also prosper in richer soils and clay. Ronjh is capable of growing quite large.



phulahi

Mimosa subfamily
Acacia modesta

✿ April 🌿 March

55



Found mostly in the Punjab, Pakistan and further west, this tree has fragrant flowers and pretty rounded leaflets. Phulahi was once the favourite hedge tree of the Punjab but has been forgotten.



babool

Mimosa subfamily
Acacia nilotica subsp indica

✿ June - August 🌿 April - May

56



A familiar tree from farmlands near Delhi. Usually short and spreading, babool looks best when it is covered with clusters of round, yellow flowers after the rains. It needs good alluvial soil.



kummatth

Mimosa subfamily
Acacia senegal

57

✿ May - June 🌿 May - June



Kummatth is a small, hardy tree from the western desert capable of growing in rocky or sandy conditions. It yields a quality gum that was exported in the 19th century. It will not withstand waterlogging.



krishna sirish

Mimosa subfamily
Albizia amara

58

✿ May 🌿 April - May



A middle-sized hardy tree with a feathery umbrella-shaped canopy and shallow roots. In the flowering season the whole tree is laden with numerous white fountain-flowers. It does not tolerate shade.



siras

Mimosa subfamily
Albizia lebeck

59

✿ April - May 🌿 March



Dry siras pods make an incessant chatter, termed as 'lebeach' or 'woman's tongue'. A large, spreading, quick-growing tree with fragrant flowers. It needs to be protected from high winds.



basa

Mimosa subfamily
Albizia odoratissima

60

✿ March - June 🌿 March - April



Known also as 'kala siris,' this is a fast-growing, tall, nitrogen-fixing native tree with graceful drooping foliage. It is adaptable to a wide range of habitats and soils. It will not tolerate waterlogging.



doon siras *Mimosa subfamily* *Albizia procera*

61

✿ July - September 🌿 April - May



The Latin epithet 'procerus' means 'very tall'. Doon siras has small, white ball-flowers and bright red pods. It needs fairly good soil conditions with plenty of moisture.



bilatri *Mimosa subfamily* *Dichrostachys cinerea*

62

✿ June - September 🌿 April - May



Bilatri produces striking yellow and pink flowers in hanging spikes. It is usually quite small, like a bush, with leaves like an acacia's. It is recommended for very dry conditions in stressed, rocky soils.



khejdi *Mimosa subfamily* *Prosopis cineraria*

63

✿ March - May 🌿 February - March



The story of the Bishnois' sacrifice for saving khejdi trees is a legend. Khejdi 'sangri' or pods form an important part of Rajasthani cuisine. This tree is superbly drought-hardy but needs deep, sandy soil.



badhal *Fig family* *Artocarpus lakucha*

64

✿ March - April 🌿 March - April



Badhal is a fruit-tree related to jack-fruit but its spiky orange fruit is considerably smaller. Native to somewhat moister parts of the sub-Himalayan area, badhal does well in moist conditions in Delhi.



jadi

May

Fig family
Ficus amplissima

65



A handsome, large fig tree with aerial roots that is usually mistaken for pilkhan but its stalkless figs which turn dark purple and its yellowish green bark set it apart. Its bark fibre is used for making rope.



peepli

April - May

Fig family
Ficus arnottiana

66



Peepili is not found in Delhi but will do well here. It is a long-lived tree of hot, moist and dry forests and likes good drainage. Its attractive peepal-like leaves have a much shorter tail than the peepal's.



bargad

March

Fig family
Ficus benghalensis

67



A familiar, sacred tree with the widest spreading canopy in the world! Fairly fast-growing, bargad will not grow in dense shade. It tolerates poor soils including stony sites and saline land. Its figs are eaten by birds.



katambar

April

Fig family
Ficus hispida

68



Katambar is a small fig tree with large, rough leaves, unfamiliar in Delhi. In the wild it grows near streams. It bears figs on long stalks and its seeds are dispersed by bats and green pigeons.



usba

May

Fig family
Ficus microcarpa

69



Usba can be seen growing luxuriously on some roundabouts and in Rashtrapati Bhavan. It grows a large, handsome canopy. Its stalkless figs ripen dark purple. Capable of growing in rocky ground.

**son pakhad**

April - May

Fig family
Ficus mollis

70



Another fig tree like usba that can establish itself on boulders and and bare rock. Its figs and new leaves are covered with pale hair. Recommended for dry, rocky sites and poor soils.

**anjeeri**

February - March

Fig family
Ficus palmata

71



A small native tree with attractive foliage known as 'Punjab fig', and closely related to the cultivated fig. It is frost-tender and likes relatively moist conditions, but is not particular about soils.

**goolar**

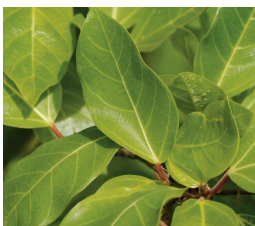
April - May

Fig family
Ficus racemosa

72



Goolar finds mention in the Atharveda. Folk wisdom says that a hidden stream runs under these trees, and it is true that goolar trees show a clear preference for moist areas. Many birds feed on its figs.



peepal

Fig family
Ficus Religiosa

73

🌿 March - April



A large tree of India sacred to both Hindus and Buddhists. Peepal's delicate heart-shaped leaves dance with the slightest wind passing through them. Its figs are food to birds and animals. It requires full sunlight.



pilkhan

Fig family
Ficus virens

74

🌿 February - March



Pilkhan does very well in Delhi in deep soil with a fair degree of moisture. It has a huge, spreading crown that looks best when it is putting on new leaves.



toot

Fig family
Morus alba

75

🌸 February - March 🌿 February - March



A short-lived fast growing tree with a dense canopy, popular among birds and humans for its mildly sweet-sour juicy berries. Toot requires moisture, tolerates shade, severe frost and is wind-resistant.



dahia

Fig family
Streblus asper

76

🌸 February - March 🌿 February - March



This small native tree with coarse leaves and tiny flowers has several uses. In Thailand for centuries this tree was the source of high quality paper. Its twigs are used as toothbrush and its leaves as sandpaper.



sonjna

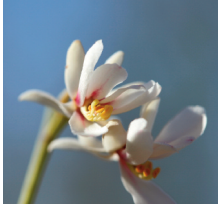
Sonjna family
Moringa concanensis

77

✿ November - March 🌿 April - May



A wild cousin of the drumstick tree. The entire tree looks enchanting, sprinkled heavily with tiny white flowers with a tinge of pink. The fruit are not consumed as they are bitter. It needs full sun and prefers sandy soil.



jamun

Eucalyptus family
Syzigium cumini

78

✿ February - March 🌿 March - April



A tree that needs little introduction, jamun is an evergreen tree with edible purple fruit, rich in Vitamin A and C and recommended to control diabetes. This frost-hardy tree thrives in both moist and dry soils, and especially near streams.



kasai

Amla family
Bridelia retusa

79

✿ August - September 🌿 May- June



A medium-sized native tree of the Aravallis. Its pea-sized fruit are a magnet for birds, especially green pigeons. It bears clusters of reddish-pink small flowers. Young stems often have blunt stout thorns.



amla

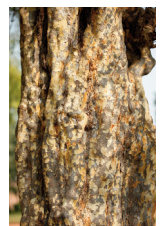
Amla family
Phyllanthus emblica

80

✿ March - May 🌿 March - April



Amalika in Hindu myth has originated from a drop of 'Amrit' that fell on the ground during samudra manthan. The fruit of this tree is famous for its medicinal value. This tree can tolerate frost.



ber**Ber family**
*Ziziphus mauritiana***81**

✿ September - October 🍃 March - April



Ber is a small, fast-growing, hardy native with spines and pretty, drooping branches. It tolerates extreme conditions including salinity and waterlogging. The edible fruits are a rich source of Vitamin C.

**papda****Gardenia family**
*Gardenia latifolia***82**

✿ April - May 🍃 May - June



A striking forest tree with broad leaves and large pure white flowers with an unforgettable scent. In nature, it grows in dry, rocky sites.

**kaim****Gardenia family**
*Mitragyna parvifolia***83**

✿ July - August 🍃 May - June



This is the Krishna kadamb of Vrindavan. It grows imposingly tall in gravelly soil with plenty of seasonal water. The ball-like flower clusters are made up of hundreds of tiny fragrant flowers.

**aal****Gardenia family**
*Morinda tinctoria***84**

✿ May - June 🍃 April - May



Known as 'Indian Mulberry,' this is a smallish tree with fragrant white flowers. It was once grown extensively for a dye called 'suranji'. Aal tree is adapted to growing in dry conditions.



katulGardenia family
Tamilnadia nilotica

85

✿ April - June 🌿 April - May



Katul prefers moist sites. It has solitary white flowers with a delightful fragrance and fruits that resemble guava when ripe. These fruit are cooked as a vegetable in unripe form, and are widely used in Ayurveda.

**bel**Orange family
Aegle marmelos

86

✿ Late May 🌿 April - May



Bel leaves are indispensable in the worship of Lord Shiva. This medium-sized tree is a food plant to Indian swallowtail butterflies. Bel does best on rich, well-drained soil. The large fruit contain a pulp that is highly valued for its medicinal uses.

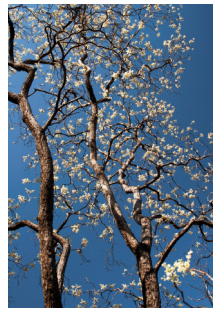
**bhirra**Orange family
Chloroxylon swietenia

87

✿ March - April 🌿 June



Bhirra is a central Indian tree that deserves to be cultivated here for its beautiful foliage and flowers. This tree occurs on poor, well-drained sandy or rocky soils.

**kaithh**Orange family
Limonia acidissima

88

✿ March - April 🌿 February - March



Slow-growing but well adapted to dry conditions, kaithh grows into a handsome tree with fennel scented foliage and pale, hard fruit similar to appearance in bel with an edible sweet and sour pulp.



bilangada

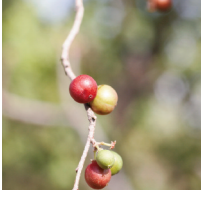
Chilla family
Flacourtia indica

89

✿ January - March 🌿 December - January



Bilangada is sometimes called a 'living hedge'. It is a small, slow-growing, thorny tree adapted to dry, rocky conditions and a variety of poor soils. The seeds of its edible, red fruit are dispersed by birds.



bilsa

Willow family
Salix tetrasperma

90

✿ February - March 🌿 February



This handsome tree our native 'willow' – has dark ridged bark and thrives along streams and rivers. The male flowers are fragrant. In Manipur the new flowers are consumed. You will not see the fruits as there are no female trees in Delhi!



khabar

Peelu family
Salvadora oleoides

91

✿ March - April 🌿 April



You are likely to find this smallish tree only at Mehrauli. Khabar has a dark canopy of pointy leaves on drooping branches and pale yellow, edible fruit that are a rich source of calcium. It is salt-resistant and frost-tender.



peelu

Peelu family
Salvadora persica

92

✿ December - April 🌿 March - April



A small, resilient, attractive tree with evergreen leaves on drooping branches and little drops of berries in white or red. Peelu's twigs have been used as a natural toothbrush for centuries.



kosam

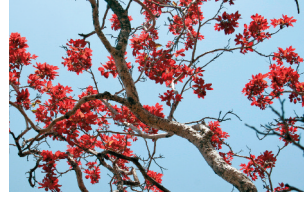
Litchi family
Schleichera oleosa

93

✿ March - April 🌿 March



Kosam can grow large but is somewhat stunted in Delhi. It produces a strikingly bright red flush of new leaves along with clusters of flowers. Kosam oil from its seed has several uses, as bath oil, in the batik industry and for hair-dressing.



mahua

Chikoo family
Madhuca longifolia var. latifolia

94

✿ February - April 🌿 April or June



Mahua is a central Indian tree that is valued chiefly for its succulent flowers which are collected and made into a country liquor. The fruit yield an oil used for cooking and lamp-oil. It grows best in somewhat sandy soils but adapts to rocky sites. It is frost-hardy.



khirni

Chikoo family
Manilkara hexandra

95

✿ December - January 🌿 April - May



A spreading long-living evergreen, adaptable, fruiting tree belonging to the chikoo family. The tree is small and very beautiful in new leaf. Khirni tolerates dry conditions and does well in well drained soils.



ullu

Maharukh family
Ailanthus excelsa

96

✿ January - March 🌿 May or June



Ullu is a large fast-growing tree with leaves that look like neem leaves on a giant scale. It grows on a variety of soils but does not tolerate waterlogging. It needs to be sheltered from winds.



jhauTamarisk family
Tamarix aphylla

97

✿ March - April 🌿 March



This is a pretty fast growing, frost-tolerant tree with drooping branches and spiny leaves that give the tree a feathery look. Jhau flowers are tiny dusting the twig ends in white or pink early in the rainy season.

**khirk**Elm family
Celtis tetrandra

98

✿ February - March 🌿 March



A middle-sized, pretty tree that was planted in Lutyens Delhi early last century but seems to have been forgotten. It looks lovely in new leaf and develops a dense dark canopy. Flowers and fruit are tiny and inconspicuous. It can grow in dry, moist but well drained soil. It does not tolerate shade.

**chudel papdi**Elm family
Holoptelea integrifolia

99

✿ February - March 🌿 April - May



A large tree that will grow in dry condition and prosper with better soil. It produces flat, papery fruit in large number that rustle in the wind.

**harshingar**Teak family
Nyctanthes arbor-tristes

100

✿ August - October 🌿 April - May



The brilliant white fragrant flowers open at dusk and form a carpet underneath the tree by morning. This small native tree finds mention in several Hindu myths. Parijat is tolerant of moderate shade.





The complete list

goonja

amda

kaari

kuda

daira

doodhi

khajoori

hingot

medsingi

akashneem

roheda

semal

lasoda

dahi-palash

goondi

pania

chamrod

salai

aamti

kaniar

jhinjheri

kachnar

amaltas

anjan

imli

kair

barna

kankera

ganiar

chakwa

dhavda

dhau

arjun

baheda

bistendu

rueen

thhor

tumri

palash

shisham

tinsa

tota

hadua

millettia

karanj

arni

gamhar

marodphali

kulu

neem

chukrassi

bakain

khair

ronjh

phulahi

babool

kummatth

krishna sirish

siras

basa

doon siras

bilatri

khejdi

badhal

jadi

peepli

bargad

katumbar

usba

son pakhad

anjeeri

goolar

peepal

pilkhan

toot

dahia

sonjna

jamun

kasai

amla

ber

papda

desi kadamb

aal

katul

bel

bhirra

kaitthh

bilangada

bilsa

khabar

peelu

kosam

mahua

khirni

ullu

jhau

khirk

chudel papdi

harshingar

Pradip Krishen's books on trees reveal meticulous work organized in the most beautiful and simple way, making treespotting easy and thoroughly enjoyable for anyone without having to become a botanist. Behind this lay years of dedication and love for the magnificent trees.

When I finally met Pradip, whose book "Trees of Delhi" is my Bible, and having listened to him, I too felt the imminent need to raise awareness about the right trees. Personally having seen the escalating tragic loss of green spaces and the success of new plantation becoming more difficult for want of regular care, it becomes crucial to select trees that can thrive in extreme climatic variations ranging from near-drought conditions to the chilling winters of Delhi. The trees that have made it to this list support the bio-diversity of our region and unless specially mentioned, all the trees are drought-resistant.

We hope you will enjoy being introduced to all the 100 trees, let the breathtakingly beautiful images warm you up to them. We look forward to a day when Delhites will make a home for these trees, in their gardens, offices, schools, hospitals, institutions, nurseries, colleges or farm-houses. Wherever mother earth is still left to breathe free.

Padmavati Dwivedi

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