

“RIGHT PLACE FOR BRIGHT FUTURE”

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PLANT MORPHOLOGY



**Botanical Name :- *Polyalthia longifolia*
(Sonner.) Thw.**

Family :- Annonaceae

Local Name :- Ashoka

Shobhecha Ashoka (*Polyalthia longifolia*) is a small Asian tree of the Annonaceae family. It is native to southern India and Sri Lanka, but has been widely introduced elsewhere in tropical Asia. This evergreen tree is known to grow over 10 m. in height and is widely planted because of its ability to reduce noise pollution. It grows in a pyramidal shape with flexible weeping pendulous branches and long narrow lanceolate leaves with undulate margins.

Morphology :

An evergreen tree with a straight trunk, conical crown and slender drooping branches. Bark dark grayish brown. Leaves simple, alternate, narrow lanceolate or linear lanceolate, margin wavy or undulate, apex long acuminate, shining dark green, glabrous above, paler glaucous beneath. Flowers bisexual, axillary, solitary or fascicled on very short umbels from axils of fallen leaves. Fruit is borne in clusters of 10–15, initially green but turning purple or black when ripe. These are eaten by birds.

Uses :

The leaves are used for ornamental decoration during festivals. The tree is a focal point in gardens throughout India. The tree can be pruned into various shapes and maintained in required sizes. Its wood is mostly used for manufacturing small articles such as pencils, boxes, matchsticks, etc.
