

Citrus limon

Common name: Lemon

Family: Rutaceae

Habit: Tree

Location: Science Block, Botanical Garden

Distribution: It is native to Asia, primarily Northeast India (Assam), Northern Myanmar, or China.

Description:

Lemon is an extremely common fruit in India. The lemon has a white, fragrant flower with five petals. The mildly fragrant flowers may be solitary or there may be 2 or more clustered in the leaf axils. Buds are reddish; the opened flowers have 4 or 5 petals 3/4 in long, white on the upper surface (inside), purplish beneath (outside), and 20-40 more or less united stamens with yellow anthers. The leading acid citrus fruit, because of its very appealing color, odor and flavor. The true lemon tree reaches 10 to 20 ft (3-6 m) in height and usually has sharp thorns on the twigs. The alternate leaves, reddish when young, become dark-green above, light-green below; are oblong, elliptic or long-ovate, 2 1/2 to 4 1/2 in long, finely toothed, with slender wings on the petioles. The fruit is oval with a nipple-like protuberance at the apex.

Uses:

The tree's ellipsoidal yellow fruit is used for culinary and non-culinary purposes throughout the world, primarily for its juice, which has both culinary and cleaning uses. The pulp and rind are also used in cooking and baking. The distinctive sour taste of lemon juice, derived from the citric acid, makes it a key ingredient in drinks and foods such as lemonade and lemon meringue pie. It is a rich source of vitamin C. It has traditionally been used as a remedy for scurvy, treatment of high blood pressure, the common cold, and irregular menstruation. Moreover, the essential oil of *C. limon* is a known remedy for coughs. It has anti-microbial properties, anti-cancer properties, anti-oxidant properties, anti-inflammatory properties, anti-parasitic properties, etc.

