

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

State Tree: Buin (Kashmiri).

Botanical Name: *Platanus orientalis* L.

Common Names: Oriental Plane (English); Chinar (Hindi).

Family: Platanaceae.

Etymology: The generic name, '**Platanus**' is derived from the Greek word 'Platys', which means ample or broad, in allusion to its spreading branches, and the specific epithet is derived from its historical distribution eastward from the Balkans.



Platanus orientalis L.

Description: A large graceful deciduous tree grows up to 30 m tall; bark grayish, exfoliating in large flakes. Leaves alternate, palmately 5 - 7-lobed, 12 - 20 cm long, often broader than long. Flowers in dense, globose heads, unisexual. Fruiting heads ca 3 cm across, consisting of numerous, small, 1-seeded achenes.

Flowering & Fruiting: March - July.

Range of Distribution: It is a native to eastern Mediterranean region from where it spreads eastwards. It is commonly cultivated and highly valued as an ornamental tree in Jammu and

Kashmir.

Economic Importance: The timber, often called lace wood, which is valuable for indoor furniture. In Asian countries it is used for cabinet making, furniture, veneers, carving, coach-building, general turnery and for wood pulp. A fabric dye has been extracted from twigs and roots.

Traditional Uses: In Kashmir, the wood is traditionally used for making small boxes, trays and other crafts which are lacquered and painted. In historic Kashmir, the tree was planted near Hindu holy places.

Medicinal Uses: Leaves and bark are medicinally important. The bark possesses antiscorbic and antirheumatic properties; it is boiled in vinegar and given in diarrhoea, dysentery, hernia and toothache. Fresh leaves are bruised and applied to the eyes in ophthalmia.

Note: The plant can be easily propagated by nursery-raised seedlings, cuttings and layering. Seeds are also used for propagation purposes.

Manas Ranjan Debta, Debasmitra Dutta – Pramanick & S.K. Srivastava

Northern Regional Centre, Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun.