



LAND SECTOR PROJECT *Fact Sheet*

Melia Dubia is the fastest growing tree and the wood from this tree is used in Plywood Industry

MELIA DUBIA cav.

Synonym: Melia composita willd. Family: Miliaceae.

A large tree, attaining a height of 20 m. with a spreading crown and a cylindrical straight bole of 9 m. length X 1.2-1.5 m. girth found in Sikkim Himalayas, North Bengal. Upper Assam, Khasi Hills, hills of Orissa, N.Circas, Deccan and Western Ghats at altitudes of 1500-1800 m.

It grows rapidly and is used for reforestation purposes.

SITE FACTORS

In its natural habitat the absolute maximum shade temperature varies from 37.5-47.5 C and the absolute minimum from 0-15 C. It does well in moist regions, with a mean annual rainfall exceeding 1000 mm. The mean relative humidity in July varies from 70-90% and in January from 50-80 %.

TOPOGRAPHY

It is commonly found in the hills at elevations ranging from 600-1800m.

GROWTH STATISTICS

The growth is rapid. GAMBLES's specimens gave 8-12 rings/dm of radius (mean annual girth increment 5.3-8 cm) for a Tamil Nadu specimen, and 28 rings/dm (mean annual girth increment 2.3 cm) for a specimen from Bengal. North Kanara in Karnataka specimen showed 12-16 rings/dm of radius giving a mean annual girth increment of 4-5.3 cm. Trees grown in the Calcutta Botanical gardens from specimen from Malbar origin are said to have reached in 7 years an average height of 14 m and a girth of 112 cm at breast height. This rate of growth is equivalent to 4 rings/ dm of radius. Even in comparatively dry regions with a rainfall of 750-1000 mm, a height of 3-4.5 m is obtained in plantations, against 6-7.5 m in more favourable locations.

On the environmental front, the cultivation of Melia dubia tree will help reduce the atmospheric carbon-dioxide levels through carbon sequestration. This tree accumulates a biomass of 300 tonnes/hectares in six years, and removes 150 tonnes of atmospheric carbon-dioxide through sequestration. These consortia mode tree cultivation will help to protect the reserve forests of India, by reducing the pressure on them for supply of raw material, say Forest College experts.



Photos from actual project