

# *Erythrina variegata*

## Indian Coral Tree

### Role In Nature

As a leguminous tree, *Erythrina variegata* has the ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen, improving soil fertility and supporting the growth of other plants. This makes it valuable as a shade tree for coffee plants, providing nitrogen naturally without chemical fertilizers. It also has a symbiotic relationship with *Rhizobium* bacteria, allowing it to fix nitrogen in the soil and improve soil fertility.

### Cultural Significance

In Hinduism, the mandara tree in Indra's garden in Svarga is believed to be *Erythrina variegata*. The symbolic association with sacred gardens and heavenly realms in major Asian religions highlights the cultural importance of *Erythrina* species.

### Medicinal Benefits

- Traditionally used for various medicinal purposes, including as a nervine sedative, antiseptic, and antirheumatic.
- Juice treats rheumatic joints, while ethanolic leaf extract contains gallic and caffeic acids.
- Key compounds may contribute to anti-inflammatory effects.





## Did You Know?

The branches and trunk of *Erythrina variegata* are covered with sharp thorns, which help protect the tree from herbivores. It also adapts to dry conditions, making it a valuable tree in arid and semi-arid regions.