

Millingtonia hortensis

Role In Nature

Millingtonia Hortensis tree's fragrant white flowers attract various pollinators, including bees and butterflies, which are essential for the reproduction of many plant species. The winged seeds are dispersed by birds, promoting the propagation of the species and supporting forest regeneration. As a leguminous plant, it helps improve soil fertility through nitrogen fixation, enhancing the health of surrounding vegetation.

Cultural Significance

Millingtonia Hortensis tree is widely planted for its beautiful, fragrant flowers, making it a popular choice in gardens and public spaces. The tree is associated with local folklore and mythology, including stories about its divine origins and romantic tales, which enrich its cultural significance. The flowers are also seen as symbols of love and longing, often linked to romantic stories, enhancing their emotional value.

Medicinal Benefits

- **Antipyretic and Anti-inflammatory:** The leaves of Millingtonia Hortensis are used in traditional medicine to reduce fever and inflammation.
- **Antimicrobial Activity:** Extracts from the plant exhibit antibacterial and antifungal properties, making it effective against various pathogens.
- **Antioxidant Potential:** The bark and flowers are rich in flavonoids and phenolic compounds, contributing to their strong antioxidant activity.
- **Hepatoprotective Effects:** The ethanolic extract of M. hortensis flowers has shown protective effects against carbon tetrachloride-induced liver damage in rats.
- **Antihelmintic Properties:** The stem bark extracts, particularly the methanol extract, demonstrate dose-dependent antihelmintic activity against earthworms.
- **Antiproliferative Activity:** An aqueous extract of M. hortensis has been found to induce apoptosis in colon cancer cells, suggesting its potential in cancer treatment.

Did You Know?

Millingtonia Hortensis also Known as the Indian cork tree or tree jasmine, it is also referred to as Akash neem and Neem chameli in various regional languages, This tree can

grow up to 24 meters tall and is characterized by its tall, straight trunk and relatively few branches, making it a striking presence in gardens and avenues.

This tree produces large clusters of silvery-white, fragrant flowers that bloom primarily from April to June.