

Markhamia lutea

Role In Nature

Markhamia lutea is an important agroforestry tree, commonly used as a shade tree for crops like banana, beans, and maize. It provides valuable shade and wind protection for agricultural systems. This tree is also useful for erosion control and soil conservation, helping to stabilize soils and prevent land degradation. The tree provides good mulch, contributing organic matter to the soil and improving soil fertility.

Cultural Significance

Markhamia lutea is widely planted as an ornamental tree in gardens and parks due to its showy yellow flowers, adding aesthetic value to urban and suburban environments. As a native tree species in eastern Africa, *Markhamia lutea* likely holds cultural significance and symbolic meaning for local communities, though specific details are not provided in the given search results.

Medicinal Benefits

- **Roots:** Used to treat convulsions in children, asthma, cough, gonorrhea, and as an aphrodisiac.
- **Bark decoctions:** Taken for asthma, cough, gonorrhea, and aphrodisiac purposes.
- **Leaves & bark:** Used for toothache, stomach-ache, headache, skin issues, wounds, and snakebites.
- **Leaf extracts:** Treat cough and malaria.
- ***Markhamia lutea* extracts:** Show strong anti-inflammatory effects and help treat intestinal toxicity from the drug paclitaxel in animal studies.

Did You Know?

Markhamia lutea is drought resistant but cannot tolerate waterlogging. It grows best in deep, fertile forest soil and can attain growth rates over 2 m per year. The wood is fairly resistant to termites and used for furniture, poles, tool handles and boat building.