

Phoenix

CLASSIFICATION

Kingdom:	Plantae
Division:	Magnoliophyta
Class:	Magnoliopsida
Order:	Arecales
Family:	Areaceae
Genus:	<i>Phoenix</i>
Species:	<i>sylvestris</i>
Vernacular name:	Khajur



PLANT PROFILE:

The plant prefers light (sandy), medium (loamy) and heavy (clay) soils. The plant prefers acid, neutral and basic (alkaline) soils. It can grow in semi-shade (light woodland) or no shade. It requires moist soil. The trunk is of light brown color and is about 3 feet in diameter. Leaves are 10 to 15 feet long, greenish brown in color have a thorns on the base of the leaf. Flowers are monoceous and males and females flowers are born on different trees. Male flowers are white and female flowers are greenish in color. Fruit is 1 to 1 ½ inch long, oval in shape, greenish yellow in color that turns red when it ripens. Fruit contains a seed which is very hard and has a length of 1.7 mm. it is round at both ends. The flowers bloom in summers and are followed by fruiting.

USES:

It is vata and pitta suppressant. Sap of plant can be concentrated into a syrup or fermented into alcohol. One of the main sources of sugar in Bengal. The root of this plant is a good analgesic due to its heavy properties. It is very effective in nervous disorders due to its sweet taste. It is very effective in the circulatory system as it has a sweet taste. It is a good aphrodisiac agent as it is cold in potency.