

## Ashok pendula Tree

**Botanical Name:** *Polyalthia longifolia*

**Common Name:** False Ashoka

**Family:** Annonaceae

**Hindi Name:** Sita Ashok

**Part Used:** bark

*Polyalthia longifolia* (Annonaceae family) is native to the drier areas of India and is locally called “Ashoka.” It is also cultivated in Southeast Asia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. *Polyalthia longifolia* is also known as Buddha tree, mast tree, cemetery tree, false Ashoka or green Champa. Generally, *Polyalthia longifolia* is viewed as a street tree because of its effectiveness in combating noise pollution. Macroscopically, the versatile *Polyalthia longifolia* can reach over 15.0 m high with symmetrical pyramidal growth and weeping pendulous branches.

In traditional and indigenous systems of medicine, *Polyalthia longifolia* has been commonly used in the treatment of fever, helminthiasis, diabetes and various cardiac problems. Pharmacological investigations have shown that *Polyalthia longifolia* possesses significant biological and pharmacological activity, which may include antibacterial, antifungal, antitumor, anti-ulcer, antidiabetic and antioxidant properties. To date, more than 30 studies have analyzed extracts from bark, leaves, roots, seeds, etc. of the plant and reported a total of approximately 100 compounds, including steroids, flavonoids, clerodane diterpenes, cleroda-oic acids and alkaloids. In context of the broad medicinal potential of *Polyalthia longifolia*, this review compiles a detailed exploration of currently available knowledge of the phytochemical and their pharmacological properties of *Polyalthia longifolia*. Its potential applications in the treatment of various conditions are also discussed.