

Citrus aurantifolia (Christm.) Swingle

Synonyms : *Limmon aurantifolia* Christm.

Family : Rutaceae

Group : 6. Star trees

Parts Used : Fruit

Vernacular Names

English : Common lime

Malayalam : Cherunarakam

Hindi : Neembu

Sanskrit : Maha-nimbu



Distribution and Habitat: Cultivated in all parts of India; Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Botany: A shrub or small tree with stiff, sharp spines.

- **Leaves:** Elliptic oblong, blunt or sometimes rounded at apex, the short petiole manifestly or narrowly winged, articulation marked.
- **Flowers:** Flew in the axils mostly not exceeding 12 mm in length, white throughout.
- **Fruit:** Round oval to oval and small, sometimes with a small nipple, segments 10, shallowly roughing, highly acid.

Properties: Fruit is an appetiser, antiseptic, refrigerant, stomachic.

Chemical; constituents: Fruit juice contains citric acid, volatile oil containing citral, limonene, linalool, linalyl acetate, terpineol and cymene. Leaf contains iso-pimpinellin, citropten.

Uses: It is used in diarrhoea, fractures, skin irritation, sore throat and eye complaints.

Propagation: seeds, cuttings and layers.

