

# *Lawsonia inermis* Linn.

**Synonyms** : *Lawsonia alba* Lamk.

**Family** : Lythraceae

**Group** : Dyes, Anti-dandruff/Hair growth promoters

**Parts Used** : Whole plant

## **Vernacular Names**

English : Henna

Malayalam : Mailanchi

Hindi : Mehndi

Sanskrit : Medhini

Assamese : Mehndi, Panwar, Hinna

Bengali : Mehendi

Gujarathi : Mendi

Kannada : Madurangi

Tamil : Marutani

Telugu : Goranta



**Distribution and Habitat:** Throughout India

**Botany:** A glabrous much branched shrub or small tree.

• **Leaves:** Opposite, sub-sessile, elliptic or broadly lanceolate, entire, acute or obtuse, often mucronate.

• **Flowers:** Small, white or rose-colored, fragrant, in large terminal pyramidal paniced cymes.

• **Fruit:** Capsule globose, about the size of a pea. Seeds numerous, pyramidal, smooth.

**Properties:** Antibacterial, anti-inflammatory

**Chemical constituents:** Interlin, Lawsone, esculetin, fraxetin, isoplumbagin, scopoletin, betulin, betulinic acid, henna diol, lupeol, and its related compounds, lacoumarin, laxanthone I,II & III, flavone glycosides, 2 pentacyclic terpenes are the chief components.

**Uses:** It is used in burning sensations, leprosy, skin diseases, premature graying of hair

bronchitis, ulcers, inflammations, scabies, falling of hair, jaundice, insomnia, intermittent fevers, amnesia, diarrhea, gastropathy, dysentery

**Formulations:** Madayantyadi churna, Mahapanchagavya ghrita, Mahaneela taila, Mahapadma taila, Vrishakadi churna.

## **Agrotechnology:**

**Soil:** Any type of soil from light loam to clay loam, but does best on heavy soils which are retentive of moisture. It tolerates little alkalinity in the soil.

**Propagation:** Propagation is done by seeds and cuttings. The seeds are soaked in water for 20-25 days for sprouting.

**Irrigations:** Daily irrigation is necessary in the initial stages of planting.

