

# *Maranta arundinacea* Linn.

**Family** : Marantaceae  
**Group** : Stomach disorders/carminatives/laxative  
**Parts Used** : Rhizome  
**Vernacular Names**  
English : Arrowroot  
Malayalam : kochikoova ,Koova  
Hindi : Tikhori  
Sanskrit : Tavaksri  
Bengali : Ararut  
Kannada : Kuvehittu, Tavaksiri  
Tamil : Kuva; Araruttukkilangu  
Telugu : Palagunta



**Distribution and Habitat:** Throughout India.

**Botany:** An erect slender branched herb, 90-180 cm high with fleshy cylindrical obovoid rhizome covered with pale scales leaving scars on falling.

• **Leaves** : Ovate-oblong to ovate-lanceolate, 25 x 11.3 cm at the base of the stem, base rounded or cuneate, tip acute;

• **Flowers** : white in clusters on diverging inflorescence branches; 18-25 mm long, sepals 13 mm; fertile stamen with appendage, ovary one celled, one ovuled.

**Properties:** Astringent, refrigerant, aphrodisiac

**Uses:** It is used in dysentery, diarrhoea, cough, dyspepsia, bronchitis, nourishing food for infants, invalids. Main ingredient in biscuits, cakes, puddings, jellies and face powders.

**Agro technology:**

**Climate and soil:** It can be grown on different types of soils both under irrigated and rainfed conditions.

**Propagation:** rhizome.

**Manures and fertilizers:** Mulching using locally available plant materials like green leaves, dried leaves or coconut fronds immediately after planting. NPK 50:25:75 kg/ha are applied.

**Harvesting:** The crop matures in 7 months. Drying up of leaves is the indication of maturity. Dig out rhizomes without damage. Dry leaves and roots. The cleaned rhizomes are either marketed or dried and stored.

