

Plumbago auriculata Lam.

Synonyms : *Plumbago capensis*

Family : Plumbaginaceae

Group : Plumbago spp.

Parts Used : Whole plant

Vernacular Names

English : Blue flowered leadwort

Malayalam : Neelakoduveli



Distribution and Habitat: Grown in tropical to subtropical ecosystems. The blue flowered Leadwort is often grown in gardens throughout India. A native of Cape Province in South Africa.

Botany: It is an evergreen shrub with whip-like semi-woody stems that forms a loose, round mound 0.9-3 m high with a similar spread. Plumbago can be pruned to grow like a vine and scramble over support or pruned in to a more compact mounded shrub, or left to sprawl with its long, gracefully arching branches.

- **Leaves** : Elliptic to obovate, 3-4 x 1.5-2 cm in, fresh, light yellowish green colour.

- **Flowers:** Sky blue in colour which are borne in rounded terminal clusters and look somewhat like phlox flowers. Inflorescence is a raceme of length 3-4 cm. Corolla is blue to violet. Stamens are 5 in number. Plumbago blooms all year long except for the coldest winter months. Flowers and

- **Fruits** : Upto 12 in number.

Uses: An esteemed remedy for leukoderma and other skin diseases. Plumbagin stimulate the central nervous system.

Formulations: *Citrakasavam, Dasamularista, Gulgulutiktaka kasaya, Yogarajachurna*, etc.

Propagation: Vegetatively by stem cuttings. Three stem cuttings of size 15 cm long are planted in polybags of size 14x10 cm. IAA and IBA treatments will improve rooting of cuttings.

