



BOTANICAL NAME- *Aegle marmelos*

ENGLISH NAME- golden apple, stone apple

HINDI NAME- Bael

FAMILY- Rutaceae

DESCRIPTION :

- ❖ Middle sized tree deciduous.
- ❖ Spines strong, straight, solitary, about 2.5 cm long.
- ❖ Bark pale somewhat corky, with shallow furrows.
- ❖ Leaves compound with 3 leaflets, the central one largest with a long stalk; side leaflets on very short stalks; margin have minute, rounded teeth.
- ❖ Flowers fragrant, about 3 cm wide, with 4 or 5 thick petals bent backwards; numerous spreading stamens.
- ❖ Fruit large, globose, with a hard shell; orange, glutinous pulp inside.

USES :

- ❖ The fruit, leaf and root bark have proven tonic, antibiotic, digestive and anti-inflammatory properties.
- ❖ It is used in the treatment of snakebite, dysentery and other diseases of the digestive system, heart, eye, skin and liver.
- ❖ Its pale yellowish wood lacks many distinct heartwood but its strong and hard and use to make pestles for oil mills, tool handles.
- ❖ Bael is regarded as a sacred tree as its leaves are essential ingredient in votive offering to shiva.