

## TEAK

Teak is a tropical hardwood tree species. It is a large, deciduous tree that occurs in mixed hardwood forests.

**Origin:** Indigenous to India.



Teak Tree



Teak Bark



Teak Leaves

**Climate and soil:** Mostly occurs in monsoon climate, under tropical and sub-tropical conditions. Sandy loam soil, 6-7 pH not exceeding 8.5 & well drained.

**Rainfall:** 1000-1500 mm adequate and even less than 750 mm per year.

**Spacing:** 1.8x1.8 m, 2x2 m is generally initially applied. (Subsequently thinned in stages)

**Nursery practices:** 50-60% germination percentage and 2.5 to 3 kg seeds are required to prepare one mother bed and derive 1000-1500 seedlings. Stumps are prepared out of seedlings that of 2.5 cm long, collar (2-3 cm), and 22-23 cm of tap root.

**Seedlings requirement:** 430/Acre (Teak seedlings from 1 year grown stump with a height of > 1 meter).

**Planting:** It is done in the monsoon period which has high success. Square or line planting is done in 45-60 cm<sup>3</sup> size pits for seedlings and stump planting, 15 cm. Diameter holes and 30 cm depth are prepared.

**Plant protection**

1. **Predominant pest:** Leaf defoliators (*Hyblaea pure*) and leaf skeletonizer (*Eutectona machaeralis*)
2. **Predominant disease:** Leaf blight (*Rhizoctonia solani*) and fungal on fruits (*Alternaria* sp)

**Thinning:** The crown of teak trees has competition; therefore, the unhealthy trees should be thinned periodically. Final thinning: 80-100 trees will remain / acre.

**Intercropping:** Crops can be cultivated until the canopy closes. Cocoa and Pepper can be grown in later stages.

**Temperature Range:** 2°- 48°C

**Pruning:** Bud pruning is recommended at an early stage. Branches are to be removed periodically without affecting the main stem. After 25-30 feet, no pruning is needed.

**Yield:** It yields a volume of 1.58 cum of timber per year per tree (increment)

**Clear Bole -Height:** 25-30 feet & Girth: 1.50-2.00 m CFT (Cubic feet): 15-20 CFT/Tree. Age: 15-20 yrs.

## Uses

Teak's high oil content, high tensile strength, and tight grain make it particularly suitable where weather resistance is desired. It is used in the manufacture of outdoor furniture and boat decks. It is also used for cutting boards, indoor flooring, countertops, and as a veneer for indoor finishings. Although easily worked, it can cause severe blunting on edged tools because of the presence of silica in the wood. Over time teak can weather to a silvery-grey finish, especially when exposed to sunlight.

The teak wood tree leaves are used in making Pellakai gatti (jackfruit dumpling), where batter is poured into a teak leaf and steamed. This type of usage is found in the coastal district of Udipi in the Tamilnadu region in South India.



\*(The yield will be varied based on edaphic, climatic factors and management practices)