



**Pradip Krishen's list of
100 most suitable
trees for Delhi (NCR)**



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Acknowledgement

This booklet is an honour bestowed upon me by Pradip Krishen. Ever grateful to him for being so generous with his time, co-inputs, editing, hospitality, and for his priceless jewels of breathtaking snaps for this booklet. Dear friend Amar Vadlamudi has truly been a friend in need. Richa Pant, thank you! for your enthusiasm and warmth. Karan has been very patient in incorporating the changes. I thank the sponsorers for helping us in reaching out this booklet to many. My son Ishan and husband, Satyajit gave me the much needed space to work on this booklet. I dedicate this work to the Lotus feet of "Kunja Vihari".

First published in 2014 by Compassionate Living, New Delhi
Compassionate Living Trust, New Delhi

Printed and bound in New Delhi by Amatrtra Printers



Why I chose these 100 trees

If you 'plant 'right', you maximize the chances of your tree surviving. But what does planting 'right' mean? It means matching the needs of the tree with the conditions you plant it in – the type of soil, the moisture regime (wet/dry), and of course, the climate.

We know what Delhi's climate is like. Searingly hot in summer, cold in winter with around 60 cm of rain a year, almost all of it falling between July and early September. So most of the year is dry, and this is an important limiting factors for a tree to survive (without assistance) in this city.

The soil is not uniform all over Delhi. The Ridge, for example, is rocky and thin-soiled and only trees able to cope with severe drought are likely to survive in Ridge-like conditions. Closer to the river where the soil is deep and loamy is a zone capable of sustaining a lot more trees. The city is a mosaic of micro-habitats. And it's important to try and find out which part of the mosaic your yard or garden or farm belongs to in order to plant 'right'.

In general, native trees work best because native trees have evolved over millions of years to adapt to particular conditions found here. Some of you will want to know why I have not chosen any cultivated exotics that do well in Delhi... Such as the Chorisia or Mexican silk cotton, or Kigelia the sausage tree. Well, it should be obvious by now that I lean heavily in favour of planting native trees. Sure, there is place for cultivated exotics, especially in small spaces where you are able to tend to their special needs. I could enumerate some of the beautiful flowering exotic trees that do well in Delhi – but that would be another much shorter list than this one.

Pradip Krishen





How to use this booklet



How to use this booklet

kummatth

Pea family
Acacia senegal

57

May - June May - June



When new leaves appear
Flowering season

Water dependency
Leaf type

The leaf key



Simple untoothed leaf

A simple leaf not toothed at the margins.



Simple toothed leaf

A simple leaf with toothed margins.



Simple lobed leaf

A simple leaf deeply lobed along its margins.



The best way to tell a simple leaf from a compound leaf is the presence of a leaf-bud growing in its axil. If a leaf-bud is present then it's a leaf and if not, it's a leaflet.



Compound digitate leaf

Compound leaves with two to three leaflets.



Compound pinnate leaf

The leaf's central axis divides only once into leaflets.



Compound twice pinnate leaf

The leaf's common axis divides once into side stalks and into leaflets.



Water dependency



Wet



Moderately wet



Moderately dry



Dry

Wet denotes a tree that is adapted to living in moist habitats (in dry forests). You must plant such trees near waterbodies, in their wet zone.

Moderately wet denotes a tree that requires relatively less water than the previous category. It will probably require deep watering once a week in the dry season.

Moderately dry denotes a tree that is adapted to slightly more water than Delhi's climate has to offer. Only slightly more. Chances are you will have to water this tree but not more than once a month in the dry season.

Dry denotes a tree that is perfectly adapted to Delhi's ecology. Once it is established, it should need no watering or looking after at all.

May - June

Omission of flowering season for figs

The flowers of fig-trees are hidden inside the figs, and cannot be seen till the fig is opened and inspected. For this reason, information on the flowering season of fig-bearing trees (*Ficus* species) has not been included in this booklet.

goonja

Mango family
Lannea coromandelica

01



February - March May - June



A large frost-tender, fire-resistant tree which demands strong light. Big clusters of tiny greenish yellow flowers are borne at the ends of bare leafless twigs. It's a source of 'jhingani' gum used in printing.

daira

Oleander family
Wrightia arborea

05



April - June April - May

This is a small fast-growing tree with thick velvety leaves and off-white flowers with an orange centre. The speckled pods are joined lengthwise. The bark is an antidote for snakebite and scorpion stings.



amda

Mango family
Spondias pinnata

02



February - March May - June

Wild Mango is a middle-sized tree best known for its mango-like fruit which is used in culinary preparations. Leaves turn bright yellow in November and December. Amda needs a moist site.



doodhi

Oleander family
Wrightia tinctoria

06



April - June March - April

A slow-growing native with star-shaped flowers that leave a waft of sweet fragrance. It yields a blue dye called pala Indigo and its sap can increase the shelf life of milk. Doodhi tolerates a wide variety of soils but not drought or frost.



kaari

Custard apple family
Milusa tomentosa

03



May - June April - June

A medium-sized tree with crisscross ridges on its bark similar to those on Bakain and a cluster of green to purple edible fruit that help in identifying it. Kaari thrives on dry and moist sites.



khajoori

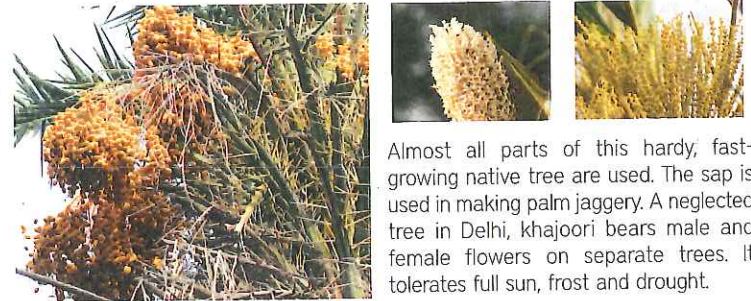
Palm family
Phoenix sylvestris

07



January - February Year long

Almost all parts of this hardy, fast-growing native tree are used. The sap is used in making palm jaggery. A neglected tree in Delhi, khajoori bears male and female flowers on separate trees. It tolerates full sun, frost and drought.



kuda

Oleander family
Holarrhena pubescens

04



April - May April - May

A medium-sized tree with beautiful white fragrant frangipani-like flower clusters. Kuda grows in the shade and tolerates dry conditions. Most parts of this tree are used in Ayurveda. Avoid shade for saplings. Grows well in all soils.



hingot

Hingot family
Balanites roxburghii

08



April - May Late March

A small, thorny native tree found in the Ridge area, Hingot is commonly found in open sandy plains and drier parts like Rajasthan. Hingot fruit is eaten by nilgai, jackals and porcupines. This tree is intolerant of shade.



medsingi

Jacaranda family
Dolichandrone falcata

09

✿ May - June 🌿 March - April



The name 'medsingi' is due to the tree's pods that are curved like a sheep's horns. It is a small, hardy, slow-growing deciduous tree with fragrant flowers and is well adapted to growing in poor soils.



lasuda

Lasora family
Cordia dichotoma

13

✿ April 🌿 Early April



Lasuda is a fast-growing, middle-sized tree that looks particularly beautiful in the monsoon. Its flowers open only at night and it does well in both moist and dry conditions but prefers deep moist and sandy loam soils.

akashneem

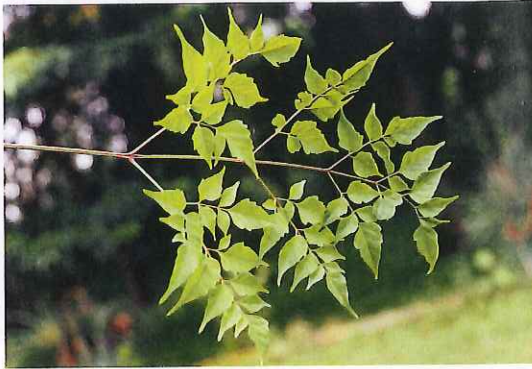
Jacaranda family
Millingtonia hortensis

10

✿ April & December 🌿 April - May



A tall ornamental tree that bears long, hanging white flowers twice a year with a pleasant lingering fragrance. Its leaves are neem-like. It grows in various soil types and climates with a preference for moist sites.

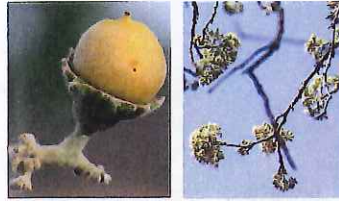


dahi-palash

Lasora family
Cordia macleodii

14

✿ March - April 🌿 April - May



A medium-sized tree with fragrant flowers. Gond folklore attributes its rarity to it being cut down indiscriminately by British to make the bark unavailable for healing the wounds of Gond soldiers.

roheda

Jacaranda family
Tecomella undulata

11

✿ February - March 🌿 February - March



Commonly known as 'desert teak,' this hardy native tree bears beautiful showy flowers in yellow, orange and red. Roheda can withstand extreme temperatures and is fire-resistant and frost-hardy.

goondi

Lasora family
Cordia sinensis

15

✿ April - June 🌿 March - April



A small, fast-growing tree found in hot and dry woodland, along rivers and on termite mounds. The edible fruit are also eaten by monkeys and birds.

semal

Semal family
Bombax ceiba

12

✿ February - March 🌿 April



A large towering tree with voluptuous waxy blooms ranging from yellow to scarlet, pollinated mostly by bats. Semal avoids heavy clay soils and does not withstand waterlogging.

pania

Lasora family
Ehretia acuminata

16

✿ April 🌿 March



Pania prefers well-drained and moist soil. This frost-tender, fast-growing tree with edible fruit cannot grow in shade. It has a dense spray of sweet-scented flowers that draw attention to this tree.

chamrod

Lasora family
Ehretia laevis

I7

March February - March



A fire-resistant and frost-tolerant, medium-sized tree with white, star-shaped flowers. Pea-sized, orange edible berries grow in clusters. Chamrod is propagated by seed and root suckers.



jhinjheri

Cassia subfamily
Bauhinia racemosa

21

May March



This tree has dense foliage, small creamish flowers and large woody pods. Jhinjheri is extremely drought-hardy, requiring less rainfall than all other Bauhinias in Delhi. It grows in a wide range of soils.



salai

Salai family
Boswellia serrata

I8

February - March May - June



Known as the Indian Frankincense tree for its aromatic resin or 'dhoop' which is obtained from wounds in its trunk. Salai is frost-hardy and does well even in poor soils.



kachnar

Cassia subfamily
Bauhinia variegata

22

March - April May - June



A small tree with beautiful flowers and edible buds. Variety 'variegata' has purple flowers, unlike var. 'candida' with white flowers. Kachnar inhabits rocky slopes, plateaux and valleys. It will not survive waterlogging.

aamti

Cassia subfamily
Bauhinia malabarica

I9

September - November May



This small fire-resistant tree, known as the 'Malabar orchid tree' has white or baby-pink flowers that are totally unlike those of kaniar and kachnar. Aamti likes more moisture than the other Bauhinias that grow in Delhi.

amaltas

Cassia subfamily
Cassia fistula

23

April - May & October May - June



This medium-sized native tree is known for its arrestingly beautiful golden yellow flowers that Delhites are familiar with. It can tolerate poor and rocky soils. Young plants are sensitive to frost.



kaniar

Cassia subfamily
Bauhinia purpurea

20

October - December April - May



A smallish, nearly evergreen tree which tolerates frost and a wide range of soils. It does not withstand waterlogging, but is also the least drought hardy of our Bauhinias.



anjan

Cassia subfamily
Hardwickia binata

24

August - September April



A beautiful native tree with slender graceful branches and tiny leaves like a butterfly's wings. New leaves have a fiery glow. The tree thrives in a dry climate. It does not stand waterlogging and grows well on rocky or porous soils.



imli *Cassia subfamily*
Tamarindus indica

25



April - May April - May

Often spotted on old highways and in villages for shade, the tangy fruits of this tree are an integral part of Indian cuisine. This hardy, near-evergreen tree can withstand strong winds but is frost-tender when young.



ganjar *Ganjar family*
Cochlospermum religiosum

29



February - March November

The term 'religiosum' refers to its large, fragrant, bright yellow flowers which are offered in temples. Ganjar has big shiny leaves. This slope loving tree is fire-resistant and tolerates impoverished soils.



kair *Barna family*
Capparis decidua

26



March & August - September March - April



Mentioned in the Mahabharat, this small tree remains mostly leafless and has pink, edible fruit and beautiful flowers. Adapted to rocky or sandy habitats, kair tolerates fire, frost, and saline or alkaline soils.



chakwa *Arjun family*
Anogeissus acuminata

30



June - September June



Chakwa grows in sandy and rocky plains. It is a tall tree with drooping branches also known as the 'button tree'. Before leaf fall the foliage turns a beautiful yellowish red. Its flowers are a lot like Dhau's.



barna *Barna family*
Crateva adansonii subsp odora

27



April April - May

A small tree found in relatively shady sites near water. It tolerates frost well. Bare for a long time in the dry season. White flowers gradually turn yellow and trees look beautiful in full bloom.



dhavda *Arjun family*
Anogeissus latifolia

31



July - September May - June



A hardy, tall and slow-growing tree that is a source of honey-coloured 'ghatti' gum. A bee-friendly tree which can be identified by its characteristic mottled bark. It prefers well-drained soils.

kankera *Saffron family*
Gymnosporia senegalensis

28



April - June March - April

A beautiful but barely noticed small and thorny tree. Its leaves are eaten by nilgais. Sweet-scented flowers are found in profuse clusters, sometimes growing on the spines.



dhau *Arjun family*
Anogeissus pendula

32



July - September June

Native to the Aravallis, dhau is valuable in afforestation of dry, rocky slopes and hills. This tree has small pretty leaves on drooping twigs and a silvery trunk. The tree responds to lopping by growing low and shrubby.



arjun Arjun family *Terminalia arjuna*

33



A favorite roost of bats, arjun is usually found in dry forests growing along the banks of rivers and streams. It is planted near wells as the roots of this tree are believed to purify and cool the water in the wells.



thhor Amla family *Euphorbia nivulia*

37



February - March May - June

A cactus-like succulent tree found on rocky ground. The spines are arranged in rows spirally on the trunk. Leafless for part of the year, thhor is a tree to grow on the most difficult rocky sites.



baheda Arjun family *Terminalia bellirica*

34



March - April March - April



A tall tree with a massive canopy and tassels of fragrant flowers. Baheda grows best in well-drained, deep sandy loams and withstands moderate frost. The fruit is part of Triphala and the nuts find mention in Mahabharata.

tumri Amla family *Mallotus nudiflorus*

38



February Late February



Tumri is a tree of medium height that grows in soil with good reserves of water. Female and male flowers appear on almost leafless branches on separate trees. The hard green fruit grow on long stalks.

bistendu Ebony family *Diospyros cordifolia*

35



April March



A lesser known tree in Delhi with lush and strikingly beautiful foliage provided it is watered. Otherwise it withstands drought well and produces small white blossoms, male and female on separate trees.

palash Pea subfamily *Butea monosperma*

39



April - May March - April



It is said that this native Delhi tree with its fiery-orange blossoms is a form of Agnidev. In Bengal, spring is associated with these flowers. Palash withstands frost, waterlogging and poor soils.

kamala Amla family *Mallotus philippensis*

36



September - December May - June

The kamala tree is medium-sized and native to the sub-Himalayan region but does fairly well in Delhi if it is watered. It is best known for the dye derived from its bright red fruit (only on female trees). It withstands shade well.



shisham Pea subfamily *Dalbergia sissoo*

40



March - May February

Shisham prefers moist sites with alluvial soil but adapts to fairly dry conditions. It is frost-tolerant. The flowers are visited by bees. This tree is planted to reclaim eroding sites and as a windbreak.



tinsa Pea subfamily
Desmodium oojainense

41



February - March April - May

A hardy, pretty tree from Indian dry forests with spectacular pink pea-like blossoms on bare branches just before the leaves emerge. It grows on poor soils. Young trees are frost-sensitive.



karanj Pea subfamily
Pongamia pinnata

45



April - May April

This tree is usually found in coastal areas or along streams in dry forests. A fast-growing, adaptable and a low maintenance native tree with pods that are a source of bio-diesel. Pea-like blossoms appear in white, lavender and pretty pink.



tota Pea subfamily
Erythrina variegata

42



April March - April



This is a somewhat weak tree but its brilliant orange flowers (white, in one variety) on almost leafless branches more than make up for it. Tota tolerates a wide range of soil conditions and grows best in drier soils.



arni Mint family
Clerodendrum phlomidis

46



October - February - March May - June



More usually a tall bush, arni can become a small tree that thrives in rocky or sandy tracts and wastelands. It bears one of Delhi's most fragrant flowers on a native tree, in dense clusters of white. Even its roots are aromatic.

hadua Pea subfamily
Erythrina suberosa

43



March - April June - July



A middle-sized prickly tree from dry sites in central Indian forests with a corky, deeply fissured bark and dense scarlet nectar-rich flower blossoms in clusters at the ends of branches. Birds visit the flowers for the nectar.



gamhar Mint family
Gmelina arborea

47



March - April March - May

A large fast-growing tree that can perhaps be mistaken for a peepal. It prefers moist but well-drained soils. Its bright yellow-brown flowers attract bees. Its wood ash was used in cave paintings centuries ago.



millettia Pea subfamily
Millettia peguensis

44



March - April April

An ornamental medium sized tree also known as 'Jewels on a string' due to its exquisitely beautiful pink flowers. It is sensitive to frost but does well in dry conditions. This tree is easy to cultivate from seed.



marodphali Hibiscus family
Helicteres isora

48



July - August March

A small tree, usually only a bush, that inhabits dry, rocky sites. The fruit is cylindrical and spirally twisted giving it the name 'screw tree'. The beautiful red flowers attract birds and butterflies to this small tree. The petals turn blue on old flowers.



kulu

Hibiscus family
Sterculia urens

49

December - March May - Early June



A spreading, attractive tree with large leaves and a very pale trunk with peeling, papery bark. Karaya gum from this tree is used in the pharmaceutical and food industry and as a denture adhesive. Kulu can grow in stony and poor soils.



khair

Mimosa subfamily
Acacia catechu

53

May - August End of May



A thin, thorny tree of modest height that is valued for the cutch (kathha) in its heartwood. Not very pretty in Delhi but wonderfully hardy and capable of growing in dry, rocky conditions.



neem

Mahogany family
Azadirachta indica

50

Mid April March - April



A medium-sized tree that hardly needs to be described, neem is a tree that has innumerable uses from being a natural toothbrush to a pesticide. This tree does not tolerate water-logging and is frost-tender.

ronjh

Mimosa subfamily
Acacia leucophloea

54

August - October March - April



A thorny tree with a spreading crown and round, white fluffy flowers that make the tree attractive in blossom. It grows in rocky or sandy soils but will also prosper in richer soils and clay. Ronjh is capable of growing quite large.



chukrassi

Mahogany family
Chukrassia tabularis

51

April - May March



A large tree with a spreading canopy. Fresh leaves are an attractive pale red, male and female flowers are borne on separate trees. Chukrassia does not like to grow in heavy and wet soils.



phulahi

Mimosa subfamily
Acacia modesta

55

April March



Found mostly in the Punjab, Pakistan and further west, this tree has fragrant flowers and pretty rounded leaflets. Phulahi was once the favourite hedge tree of the Punjab but has been forgotten.



bakain

Mahogany family
Melia azedarach

52

March - April February



This tree is often mistaken for neem. Bakain is conspicuous when it is covered by bunches of yellow dry fruit on leafless branches. The tiny lilac flowers are pretty and fragrant. It is a highly adaptable tree.



babool

Mimosa subfamily
Acacia nilotica subsp indica

56

June - August April - May



A familiar tree from farmlands near Delhi. Usually short and spreading, babool looks best when it is covered with clusters of round, yellow flowers after the rains. It needs good alluvial soil.



kummatth *Mimosa subfamily* *Acacia senegal*

57

✿ May - June ☘ May - June



Kummatth is a small, hardy tree from the western desert capable of growing in rocky or sandy conditions. It yields a quality gum that was exported in the 19th century. It will not withstand waterlogging.



doon siras *Mimosa subfamily* *Albizia procera*

61

✿ July - September ☘ April - May



The Latin epithet 'procerus' means 'very tall'. Doon siras has small, white ball-flowers and bright red pods. It needs fairly good soil conditions with plenty of moisture.



krishna sirish *Mimosa subfamily* *Albizia amara*

58

✿ May ☘ April - May



A middle-sized hardy tree with a feathery umbrella-shaped canopy and shallow roots. In the flowering season the whole tree is laden with numerous white fountain-flowers. It does not tolerate shade.



bilatri *Mimosa subfamily* *Dichrostachys cinerea*

62

✿ June - September ☘ April - May



Bilatri produces striking yellow and pink flowers in hanging spikes. It is usually quite small, like a bush, with leaves like an acacia's. It is recommended for very dry conditions in stressed, rocky soils.



siras *Mimosa subfamily* *Albizia lebbek*

59

✿ April - May ☘ March



Dry siras pods make an incessant chatter, termed as 'lebeach' or 'woman's tongue'. A large, spreading, quick-growing tree with fragrant flowers. It needs to be protected from high winds.



khejdi *Mimosa subfamily* *Prosopis cineraria*

63

✿ March - May ☘ February - March



The story of the Bishnois' sacrifice for saving khejdi trees is a legend. Khejdi 'sangri' or pods form an important part of Rajasthani cuisine. This tree is superbly drought-hardy but needs deep, sandy soil.



basa *Mimosa subfamily* *Albizia odoratissima*

60

✿ March - June ☘ March - April



Known also as 'kala siris,' this is a fast-growing, tall, nitrogen-fixing native tree with graceful drooping foliage. It is adaptable to a wide range of habitats and soils. It will not tolerate waterlogging.



badhal *Fig family* *Artocarpus lakucha*

64

✿ March - April ☘ March - April



Badhal is a fruit-tree related to jack-fruit but its spiky orange fruit is considerably smaller. Native to somewhat moister parts of the sub-Himalayan area, badhal does well in moist conditions in Delhi.



jadi

Fig family
Ficus amplissima

65



May

A handsome, large fig tree with aerial roots that is usually mistaken for pilkhan but its stalkless figs which turn dark purple and its yellowish green bark set it apart. Its bark fibre is used for making rope.



usba

Fig family
Ficus microcarpa

69



May

Usba can be seen growing luxuriously on some roundabouts and in Rashtrapati Bhavan. It grows a large; handsome canopy. Its stalkless figs ripen dark purple. Capable of growing in rocky ground.



peepli

Fig family
Ficus arnottiana

66



April - May

Peepili is not found in Delhi but will do well here. It is a long-lived tree of hot, moist and dry forests and likes good drainage. Its attractive peepal-like leaves have a much shorter tail than the peepal's.



son pakhad

Fig family
Ficus mollis

70



April - May

Another fig tree like usba that can establish itself on boulders and and bare rock. Its figs and new leaves are covered with pale hair. Recommended for dry, rocky sites and poor soils.



bargad

Fig family
Ficus benghalensis

67



March

A familiar, sacred tree with the widest spreading canopy in the world! Fairly fast-growing, bargad will not grow in dense shade. It tolerates poor soils including stony sites and saline land. Its figs are eaten by birds.



anjeeri

Fig family
Ficus palmata

71



February - March

A small native tree with attractive foliage known as 'Punjab fig', and closely related to the cultivated fig. It is frost-tender and likes relatively moist conditions, but is not particular about soils.



katumbar

Fig family
Ficus hispida

68



April

Katumbar is a small fig tree with large, rough leaves, unfamiliar in Delhi. In the wild it grows near streams. It bears figs on long stalks and its seeds are dispersed by bats and green pigeons.



goolar

Fig family
Ficus racemosa

72



April - May

Goolar finds mention in the Atharvaveda. Folk wisdom says that a hidden stream runs under these trees, and it is true that goolar trees show a clear preference for moist areas. Many birds feed on its figs.



peepal

Fig family
Ficus Religiosa

73



March - April

A large tree of India sacred to both Hindus and Buddhists. Peepal's delicate heart-shaped leaves dance with the slightest wind passing through them. Its figs are food to birds and animals. It requires full sunlight.



sonjna

Sonjna family
Moringa concanensis

77



November - March April - May

A wild cousin of the drumstick tree. The entire tree looks enchanting, sprinkled heavily with tiny white flowers with a tinge of pink. The fruit are not consumed as they are bitter. It needs full sun and prefers sandy soil.



pilkhan

Fig family
Ficus virens

74



February - March

Pilkhan does very well in Delhi in deep soil with a fair degree of moisture. It has a huge, spreading crown that looks best when it is putting on new leaves.



jamun

Eucalyptus family
Syzigium cumini

78



February - March March - April

A tree that needs little introduction, jamun is an evergreen tree with edible purple fruit, rich in Vitamin A and C and recommended to control diabetes. This frost-hardy tree thrives in both moist and dry soils, and especially near streams.



toot

Fig family
Morus alba

75



February - March February - March

A short-lived fast growing tree with a dense canopy, popular among birds and humans for its mildly sweet-sour juicy berries. Toot requires moisture, tolerates shade, severe frost and is wind-resistant.



kasai

Amla family
Bridelia retusa

79



August - September May - June

A medium-sized native tree of the Aravallis. Its pea-sized fruit are a magnet for birds, especially green pigeons. It bears clusters of reddish-pink small flowers. Young stems often have blunt stout thorns.



dahia

Fig family
Streblus asper

76



February - March February - March

This small native tree with coarse leaves and tiny flowers has several uses. In Thailand for centuries this tree was the source of high quality paper. Its twigs are used as toothbrush and its leaves as sandpaper.



amla

Amla family
Phyllanthus emblica

80



March - May March - April

Amalika in Hindu myth has originated from a drop of 'Amrit' that fell on the ground during samudra manthan. The fruit of this tree is famous for its medicinal value. This tree can tolerate frost.



ber Ber family
Ziziphus mauritiana

81



September - October March - April

Ber is a small, fast-growing, hardy native with spines and pretty, drooping branches. It tolerates extreme conditions including salinity and waterlogging. The edible fruits are a rich source of Vitamin C.



katul Gardenia family
Tamilnadia nilotica

85



April - June April - May

Katul prefers moist sites. It has solitary white flowers with a delightful fragrance and fruits that resemble guava when ripe. These fruit are cooked as a vegetable in unripe form, and are widely used in Ayurveda.



papda Gardenia family
Gardenia latifolia

82



April - May May - June

A striking forest tree with broad leaves and large pure white flowers with an unforgettable scent. In nature, it grows in dry, rocky sites.



bel Orange family
Aegle marmelos

86



Late May April - May

Bel leaves are indispensable in the worship of Lord Shiva. This medium-sized tree is a food plant to Indian swallowtail butterflies. Bel does best on rich, well-drained soil. The large fruit contain a pulp that is highly valued for its medicinal uses.



kaim Gardenia family
Mitragyna parvifolia

83



July - August May - June

This is the Krishna kadamb of Vrindavan. It grows imposingly tall in gravelly soil with plenty of seasonal water. The ball-like flower clusters are made up of hundreds of tiny fragrant flowers.



bhirra Orange family
Chloroxylon swietenia

87



March - April June

Bhirra is a central Indian tree that deserves to be cultivated here for its beautiful foliage and flowers. This tree occurs on poor, well-drained sandy or rocky soils.



aal Gardenia family
Morinda tinctoria

84



May - June April - May

Known as 'Indian Mulberry,' this is a smallish tree with fragrant white flowers. It was once grown extensively for a dye called 'suranji'. Aal tree is adapted to growing in dry conditions.



kaithh Orange family
Limonia acidissima

88



March - April February - March

Slow-growing but well adapted to dry conditions, kaithh grows into a handsome tree with fennel scented foliage and pale, hard fruit similar to appearance in bel with an edible sweet and sour pulp.



bilangada *Chilla family* *Flacourtia indica*

89



* January - March * December - January

Bilangada is sometimes called a 'living hedge'. It is a small, slow-growing, thorny tree adapted to dry, rocky conditions and a variety of poor soils. The seeds of its edible, red fruit are dispersed by birds.



bilsa *Willow family* *Salix tetrasperma*

90



* February - March * February

This handsome tree our native 'willow' - has dark ridged bark and thrives along streams and rivers. The male flowers are fragrant. In Manipur the new flowers are consumed. You will not see the fruits as there are no female trees in Delhi!



khabar *Peelu family* *Salvadora oleoides*

91



* March - April * April

You are likely to find this smallish tree only at Mehrauli. Khabar has a dark canopy of pointy leaves on drooping branches and pale yellow, edible fruit that are a rich source of calcium. It is salt-resistant and frost-tender.



peelu *Peelu family* *Salvadora persica*

92



* December - April * March - April

A small, resilient, attractive tree with evergreen leaves on drooping branches and little drops of berries in white or red. Peelu's twigs have been used as a natural toothbrush for centuries.



kosam *Litchi family* *Schleichera oleosa*

93



* March - April * March

Kosam can grow large but is somewhat stunted in Delhi. It produces a strikingly bright red flush of new leaves along with clusters of flowers. Kosam oil from its seed has several uses, as bath oil, in the batik industry and for hair-dressing.



mahua *Chikoo family* *Madhuca longifolia var. latifolia*

94



* February - April * April or June

Mahua is a central Indian tree that is valued chiefly for its succulent flowers which are collected and made into a country liquor. The fruit yield an oil used for cooking and lamp-oil. It grows best in somewhat sandy soils but adapts to rocky sites. It is frost-hardy.



khirni *Chikoo family* *Manilkara hexandra*

95



* December - January * April - May

A spreading long-living evergreen, adaptable, fruiting tree belonging to the chikoo family. The tree is small and very beautiful in new leaf. Khirni tolerates dry conditions and does well in well drained soils.



ullu *Maharukh family* *Ailanthus excelsa*

96



* January - March * May or June

Ullu is a large fast-growing tree with leaves that look like neem leaves on a giant scale. It grows on a variety of soils but does not tolerate waterlogging. It needs to be sheltered from winds.



jhau

Tamarisk family
Tamarix aphylla

97

March - April March



This is a pretty, fast-growing, frost-tolerant tree with drooping branches and spiny leaves that give the tree a feathery look. Jhau flowers are tiny, dusting the twig ends in white or pink early in the rainy season.



khirk

Elm family
Celtis tetrandra

98

February - March March



A middle-sized, pretty tree that was planted in Lutyens Delhi early last century but seems to have been forgotten. It looks lovely in new leaf and develops a dense dark canopy. Flowers and fruit are tiny and inconspicuous. It can grow in dry, moist but well drained soil. It does not tolerate shade.



chudel papdi

Elm family
Holoptelea integrifolia

99

February - March April - May



A large tree that will grow in dry condition and prospers in better soil. It produces flat, papery fruit in large numbers that rustle in the wind.



harshingar

Teak family
Nyctanthes arbor-tristes

100

August - October April - May



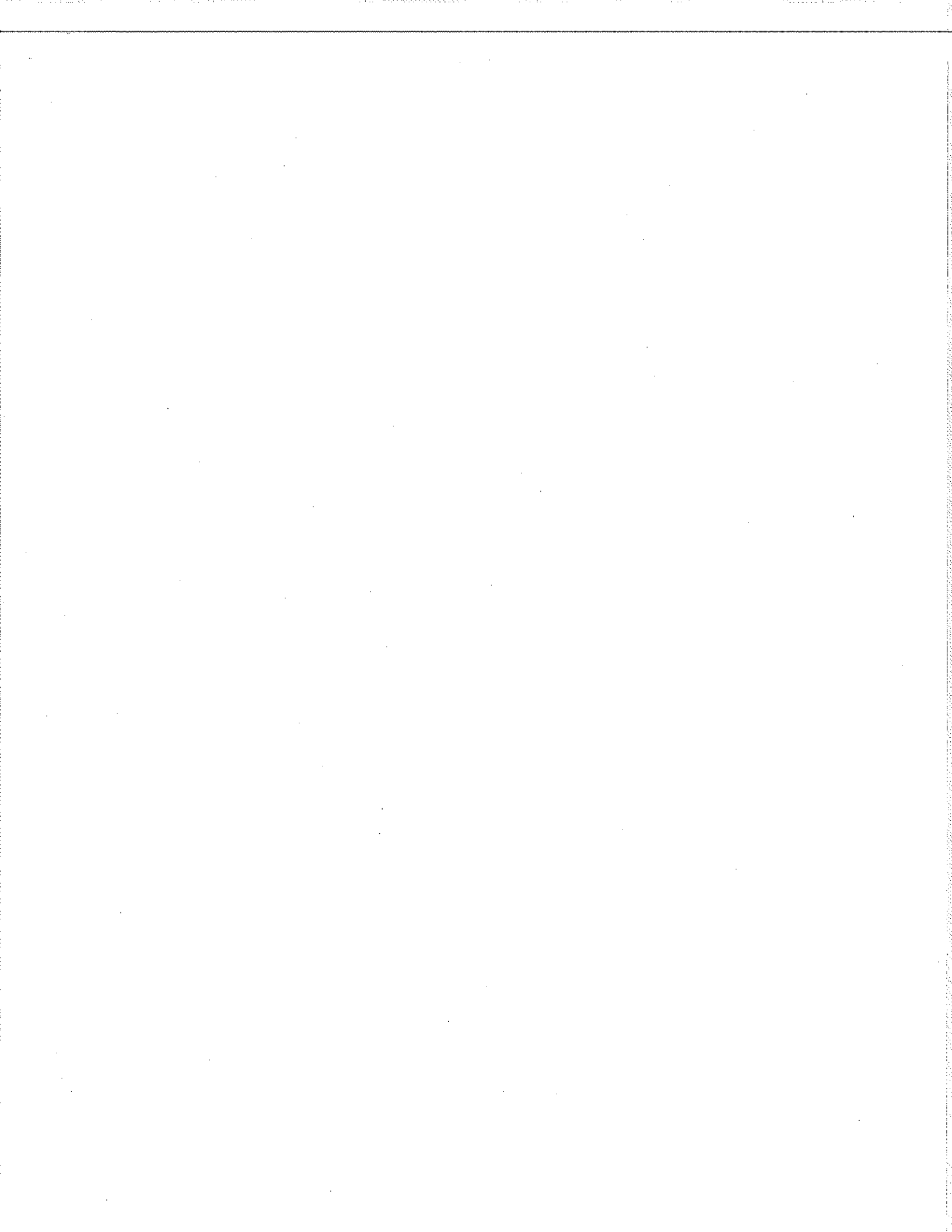
The brilliant white fragrant flowers open at dusk and form a carpet underneath the tree by morning. This small native tree finds mention in several Hindu myths. Harshingar is tolerant of moderate shade.



The complete list

Here is the list of 100 most suitable trees for Delhi (NCR) in an alphabetical order with the page numbers.

aal	21	doon siras	16	kuda	1
aamti	5	gamhar	12	kulu	13
akashneem	3	ganjar	8	kummatth	15
amaltas	6	goolar	18	lasuda	4
amda	1	goondi	4	mahua	24
amla	20	goonja	1	marodphali	12
anjan	6	hadua	11	medsingi	3
anjeeri	18	harshingar	25	millettia	11
arjun	9	hingot	2	neem	13
arni	12	imli	7	palash	10
babool	14	jadi	17	pania	4
badhal	16	jamun	20	papda	21
baheda	9	jhau	25	peelu	23
bakain	13	jhinjheri	6	peepal	19
bargad	17	kaari	1	peepli	17
barna	7	kachnar	6	phulahi	14
basa	15	kaim	21	pilkhan	19
bel	22	kair	7	roheda	3
ber	21	kaithh	22	ronjh	14
bhirra	22	kamala	9	salai	5
bilangada	23	kaniar	5	semal	3
bilatri	16	kankera	7	shisham	10
bilsa	23	karanj	12	siras	15
bistendu	9	kasai	20	son pakhad	18
chakwa	8	katul	22	sonjna	20
chamrod	5	katumbar	17	thhor	10
chudel papdi	25	khavar	23	tinsa	11
chukrassi	13	khair	14	toot	19
dahia	19	khajoori	2	tota	11
dahi-palash	4	khejdi	16	tumri	10
Daira	2	khirk	25	ullu	24
dhau	8	khirni	24	usba	18
dhavda	8	kosam	24		
doodhi	2	krishna sirish	15		



About the booklet: Pradip Krishen's books on trees reveal meticulous work organized in the most beautiful and simple way, making tree-spotting easy and thoroughly enjoyable for anyone without any botanical knowledge. Behind this lies years of dedication and love for trees. When I finally met Pradip, whose book "Trees of Delhi" is my Bible, and having listened to him, I felt the need to raise awareness about the right trees. Personally having seen the escalating tragic loss of green spaces and the plight of new plantations for want of regular care, I realise that it is crucial to select trees that can adapt to extreme climatic variations ranging from near drought conditions to the chilling winters of Delhi. The trees that have made it to this list support the biodiversity of our region and unless specially mentioned, all the trees are drought-resistant. We hope you will enjoy being introduced to all the 100 trees. Most are native trees of this region.

I look forward to the day when Delhites will make a home for these trees in their gardens, offices, schools, hospitals, institutions, nurseries, colleges or farm houses. Wherever mother earth is still left to breathe free.

Padmavati Dwivedi

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