
Wild Edible Fruit Plants of Sriharikota

Nature has provided different sources of life forms on which human survived on planet Earth. Primitive man ate all types of fruits, leaves, roots of plants collecting from wild, before he learnt to grow plants.

Out of the Earth's half million plant species, only about 3,000 species have been used as agricultural crops and only 150 species are cultivated on large scale. While genetically modified crops are poised to play an important role in enhancing agricultural productivity, development of new crops by domesticating and improving wild edible species presents promising prospect. (Padulosi, 1998).

Besides few cultivated fruit species, there are many wild relatives in Sriharikota's forests and that are underexploited and their economic potential is not known. In sriharikota edible fruit which can be eaten without any preparation are

- Mango, Mamidi (Telugu) - Botanical Name: *Mangifera indica*
- Jamun, Neredu pandu (Telugu) Nagaphalam (Tamil) - Botanical Name: *Syzygium cumini*
- Cashew, Muntamamidi (Telugu) - Botanical Name: *Anacardium occidentale*
- Palm Thati (Telugu) - Botanical Name: *Borassus flabellifer*
- Date, Khajuram, Chittieetha / Kondaeetha (Telugu) - Botanical Name: *Phoenix spp*
- Bear, Regu (Telugu) - Botanical Name: *Ziziphus Mauritiana*

There are large number of wild fruits at Sriharikota which are edible.

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Botanical name: Calamus rotong

Family: Arecaceae

Vernacular Name: Beta (Oriya, Bengali), Pemu (Telugu), Pirappan Kizhangh (Tamil)

Fruiting time: April to August

Botanical description of fruit: Fruit is sub globose, pale yellow when ripe, fleshy, mucilaginous.

Uses of the Fruit: Sweet pulps surrounding the seeds ripe fruits are eaten. The seeds yield a red dye on soaking.

Botanical name: Ziziphus oenoplia

Family: Rhamnaceae

Vernacular Name: Pariki (Telugu), Kantei koli (Oriya), Jangal Kul Makai (Hindi), Jackal Jujube (English), Kottai (Tamil)

Fruiting time: November to January

Botanical description of fruit: The fruit is drupe black, shining globose, stone rugose and single seeded.

Uses of the Fruit: The ripe fruits are sweet-acidic in taste and edible. It is used by Munda community east Indian state for stomach pain.



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Botanical Name: *Memecylon umbellatum*

Family: Melastomataceae

Vernacular Name: Allie (Telugu) Nirasa, Nireisa, Dalasundar (Oriya) Iron wood tree (English), Anjani kaya (Tamil)

Fruiting Time: August to September

Botanical description of fruit: The Berries are Purplish, black when ripe.

Uses of the Fruit: The fruits are Pulpy, astringent and edible

Botanical Name: *Olax psittacorum*-*Olax scandens* Roxb

Family: Olacaceae

Vernacular Name: Mekabanda, (Telugu) Badabana (Oriya), Koko'aru (Bengali), Dheniani (Hindi), Kadal Rang (Tamil)

Fruiting Time: September to October

Botanical description of fruit: Fruits a drupe, sub-globose, fleshy, yellow or orange when ripe, more than half enclosed by the accrescent calyx.

Uses of the Fruit: The fleshy fruits are edible when ripe also reported to be used for making sherbet or local refreshing drink. Birds consume the ripe Fruits in good quantity.



Botanical Name: *Glycosmis pentaphylla*, *Glycosmis arborea* (Roxb)

Family: Rutaceae

Vernacular Name: Gongi (Telugu) Chaladhua, Chauli, Dubudubd (Oriya), Ashoura (Bengali), Ban-Nimbu (Hindi), Vana Nimbuka (Sanskrit), Kula Pannai (Tamil)

Fruiting Time: May to July

Botanical description of fruit: Berries globes, pinkish, pulpy, glassy, single seeded

Uses of the Fruit: The ripe berries are pulpy and eaten raw by tribal and villagers.

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Botanical Name: *Ficus hispida* , *Ficus daemona* Koenig ex Vahl

Family: Moraceae

Vernacular name: Bemmedu (Telugu) Dimiri (Oriya), Kalodumar (Bengali), Daduri, Dagurin (Hindi), Atti (Tamil)

Fruiting Time: January to December

Botanical description of fruit: Globose, yellowish when ripe, tomentose or closely shortly hairy.

Uses of the Fruit: Fruits are greenish-yellow when ripe, edible and in to jams by poor households. Immature fruits are used as vegetable for curries.



Botanical Name: *Capparis brevispina*, *Capparis zeylanica* Hook & Thoms, Non Linn

Family: Capparaceae

Vernacular Name: Palasuri, Aridonda (Telugu) Niphura, Liphura, Nepheda (Oriya) Indian Caper (English), Kattu Aadhanandai (Tamil)

Fruiting Time: October

Botanical description of fruit: Berry ellipsoid, beaked, deep red in colour when fully ripe, seeds embedded in white pulp.

Uses of the Fruit: Raw green fruits are cut into thin transverse section, then salted, dried in the sun and fried in sesame oil or ghee. In rural India, it is served with porridge and other traditional snacks. Fruits are also made into pickles.

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Botanical Name: *Diospyros errea*, *Maba buxifolia* (Rottl)

Family: Ebenaceae

Vernacular Name: Gaura koli, Gaurakasa, Guakoli (O) Angaru (Beng), Iron wood (English), Utti (Tamil)

Fruiting Time: June to July

Botanical description of fruit: Berry globose, yellow or reddish, single seeded; endosperm uniform, fruiting calyx cup-shaped.

Uses of the Fruit: Fruits have sweet pulps when ripe and are eaten raw by children in rural areas. They are considered as famine as famine foods for tribals of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar.

Botanical Name: *Morinda Pubescens* Sm,

Family: Rubiaceae

Vernacular Name: Pedda Papidi (Telugu) Achu, Aachchu (Oriya) Al, Ach (Bengali) (Hindi), Nuni (Tamil)

Fruiting Time: September to October

Botanical description of fruit: Fruits 2-3 cm across, subglobose, syncarpium formed by succulent, accrescent calyx, pyrenes stony.

Uses of the Fruit: The ripe fruits are edible. The green fruits are pickled and eaten with curries.



Botanical Name: *Atalanti monophylla* (Linn.) Corr.,

Family: Rutaceae

Vernacular Name: Adavinimma, Munkudu (Telugu) Narguni, Ktha Naranga (Oriya) Atavi Jambira (Sanskrit), Jangli Nimbu (Hindi), Wild Lime (English), Kattu Elemaechi (Tamil)

Fruiting Time: August to September

Botanical description of fruit: Berries 2-3 cm across, globose, rough green to orange. 1.5-2cm dia., 1-4 seeded.

Uses of the Fruit: The berries are pickled. The fruit juice is credited with anti-bilious properties. Fruits yield an essential oil used in chronic rheumatism, paralysis and known to possess anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties.