# Pride of India

*Lagerstroemia speciosa*

**Code:** TREE-2106579F676C6E2 **Location:** XIM University Campus **Local / Vernacular name:** ଜାରୁଲ/ରାଣୀ ଫୁଲ

## Botanical Details

Leaf habit: Deciduous Flowers / Fruits: nan Native range: nan

## Uses & Importance

**Ecological:** The Pride of India tree, Lagerstroemia speciosa, plays a valuable ecological role in tropical and subtropical ecosystems. Its large, long-lasting flowers provide an important nectar and pollen source for bees, butterflies, and other pollinating insects, thereby supporting pollinator diversity and local food webs. The tree's dense canopy offers shade and microhabitats that help moderate temperature, reduce soil moisture loss, and create favorable conditions for understory plants. Its extensive root system contributes to soil stabilization and erosion control, particularly along roadsides and riverbanks. In urban and semi-urban environments, Lagerstroemia speciosa also aids in improving air quality, sequestering carbon, and enhancing urban biodiversity, making it ecologically significant as both a native and ornamental species.

**Medicinal:** The Pride of India tree, scientifically known as Lagerstroemia speciosa, is widely valued in traditional medicine systems across South and Southeast Asia. Its leaves are best known for their strong antidiabetic properties and are commonly used in Ayurvedic and folk remedies to help regulate blood sugar levels, often in the form of herbal teas or extracts. The leaves contain bioactive compounds such as corosolic acid, which is associated with improved glucose metabolism. The bark and roots are traditionally used for their anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, and antipyretic effects, helping in the treatment of fever, digestive disorders, and minor infections. Additionally, various parts of the tree are recognized for antioxidant properties, contributing to overall metabolic health and immune support, making Lagerstroemia speciosa an important medicinal plant in traditional healthcare practices.

**Cultural:** The Pride of India tree, Lagerstroemia speciosa, holds cultural and symbolic significance in many parts of India and Southeast Asia. Although it is not a primary ritual plant like tulsi or peepal, it is widely planted around temples, public grounds, and ceremonial avenues because its vibrant purple flowers are associated with beauty, dignity, and prosperity. The tree's long and showy flowering season often coincides with festive periods, making it culturally linked to celebration, harmony, and aesthetic reverence for nature. In community traditions, its flowers and presence enhance sacred and social spaces, reflecting respect for natural beauty and environmental balance. As an ornamental and avenue tree, it symbolizes civic pride, renewal, and cultural identity, reinforcing the connection between nature, spirituality, and communal life.

## Location

GPS: 20.15860192, 85.76535449

Directions: https://www.google.com/maps/dir/?api=1&travelmode=walking&destination=20.15860192%2C85.76535449