

SAPTRANI TREE

The **Saptrani Tree**, also known regionally by various names, is most commonly identified with the ***Alstonia scholaris*** species — a fast-growing, evergreen tree native to the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.

🌳 Saptrani Tree (*Alstonia scholaris*) Overview:

- **Common Names:** Saptaparni, Blackboard Tree, Devil's Tree, Scholar Tree
 - **Scientific Name:** *Alstonia scholaris*
 - **Family:** Apocynaceae (same family as Chafa and Frangipani)
 - **Native To:** India, Southeast Asia, and Australia
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🌿 Key Characteristics:

- **Leaves:** Arranged in **whorls of 7**, giving it the name *Saptaparni* (meaning "seven leaves" in Sanskrit)
 - **Flowers:** Small, greenish-white, fragrant — bloom in clusters during the **autumn months**, often filling the air with a sweet but strong scent
 - **Height:** Grows up to **40 meters** in ideal tropical conditions
 - **Bark:** Smooth and greyish; contains a **milky latex**
 - **Wood:** Lightweight and used for making blackboards, matchboxes, and pulp
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🌿 Cultural & Medicinal Uses:

- Considered **sacred in some traditions**, especially in Vastu and certain rituals
 - The **bark and leaves** are used in **Ayurveda** for treating fever, respiratory issues, and skin diseases
 - Often planted near temples, schools, and urban avenues for **shade and fragrance**
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🐞 Fun Fact:

Despite its divine association in India, the name "Devil's Tree" came from early European botanists who found its night-blooming fragrance eerie in dense forests 🌑—but it's anything but evil!