



***Diospyros kaki* Thunb.**

Family: Ebenaceae

Common names: Japanese persimmon, Japani phal



Description:

Diospyros kaki is widely grown as a fruit tree in Australia. It is a multi-stemmed or sometimes single-stemmed deciduous tree up to 6-18 m tall. Leaves are alternate, entire, ovate-elliptic, oblong-ovate and 7.5-25 cm long. Flowers inconspicuous surrounded by a green calyx tube, female flowers solitary, cream-colored; male flowers pink-tinged, borne in threes. Fruit round, conical, oblate, or nearly square, capped by the persistent calyx, smooth, glossy, yellow, orange, red or brownish-red in colour. Fruit is juicy seedless or containing 4-8 seeds (CSIR. 1952).

Utilization:

The fruit has an exquisitely rich flavour when it is very soft and fully ripe, so it is eaten raw or cooked. The fruit can also be used in pies, cakes, bread, desserts etc. The fresh fully ripe fruit is used raw in the treatment of constipation and haemorrhoids and when cooked is used to treat diarrhoea. The dried ripe fruit is used in the treatment of bronchial complaints and when ground into a powder it is used to treat dry coughs (Brown, 1995). Wood is heavy and hard, it takes smooth finish and hence used in making furniture.

Part	Uses
Leaf Extract	Antioxidant
Fruit	Antioxidant and antigenotoxic

References:

CSIR; (1952). The Wealth of India: A dictionary of Indian raw materials and industrial products, Vol. III. CSIR.

Brown D; (1995). Encyclopedia of herbs and their uses. Dorling kindersley, London. ISBN 07513-02031.

Sun L, Zhang J, Lu X, Zhang L, Zhang Y;(2011) "Evaluation to the antioxidant activity of total flavonoids extract from persimmon (*Diospyros kaki* L.) leaves" Food and Chemical Toxicology Volume 49, Issue 10, Pages 2689–2696.

Jang I, Jo E, Bae M, Lee H, Jeon G, Park E, Yuk H, Ahn G and Lee S; (2010) "Antioxidant and antigenotoxic activities of different parts of persimmon (*Diospyros kaki* cv. fuyu) fruit" Journal of Medicinal Plants Research 4.2 : 155-160.