

Plant Profile : Vitex negundo (Nirgundi)

Botanical Name	Vitex negundo																		
Common Name	Sambhalu, Nirgundi																		
Classification	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Kingdom:</td> <td>Plantae</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Subkingdom:</td> <td>Tracheobionta</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Division:</td> <td>Magnoliophyta</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Class:</td> <td>Magnoliopsida</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Subclass:</td> <td>Asteridae</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Order:</td> <td>Lamiales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family:</td> <td>Lamiaceae</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Genus:</td> <td>Vitex</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Species:</td> <td>negundo</td> </tr> </table>	Kingdom:	Plantae	Subkingdom:	Tracheobionta	Division:	Magnoliophyta	Class:	Magnoliopsida	Subclass:	Asteridae	Order:	Lamiales	Family:	Lamiaceae	Genus:	Vitex	Species:	negundo
Kingdom:	Plantae																		
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Division:	Magnoliophyta																		
Class:	Magnoliopsida																		
Subclass:	Asteridae																		
Order:	Lamiales																		
Family:	Lamiaceae																		
Genus:	Vitex																		
Species:	negundo																		
Part used	Leaves, flowers, seeds, fruits, bark and root.																		
Medicinal Properties	Whole plant: astringent, cephalic and stomachic; Fruits: cephalic, emmenagogue and nervine tonic; Seeds: cooling; Flowers: astringent, cardiogenic and cooling; leaves: alterative, antiparasitic, discutient, antiinflammatory and antirheumatic; root-bark: tincture; root: anodyne, diuretic, expectorant, febrifuge, anthelmintic and tonic.																		
Medicinal Use	Specially useful in rheumatism. Whole plant: promotes growth of hair, used in asthma, bronchitis, inflammations, eye diseases, leucoderma, spleen enlargement and painful teething. Fruits: dried fruits are vermifuge. Seeds: used in cutaneous diseases and leprosy. Flowers: prescribed in cholera, diarrhoea, fever and liver complaints. Leaves: effective in gonorrhoeal epididymitis, orchitis, vermifuge. Leaves are applied to rheumatic swellings of the joints and in sprains. The juice of the leaves is used for the treatment of foetid discharges and maggots in ulcers. Smoke from dried leaves relieves catarrh and headache. Root-bark: useful in rheumatism and irritable bladder. Root: beneficial in boils, cholic, dyspepsia, leprosy.																		
Chemistry	Bitosterol, linoleic oleic, palmitic and stearic acids, casticin, isoorientin, chrysophenol D, luteolin, p-																		

	hydroxybenzoic acid and D-fructose.
Regional Habitat	Found in scrub-jungles and road-sides in the warmer parts of rajasthan.
Description	A large shrub or small tree of about 3 meters in height with quadrangular branches. Can be described as a cross between a shrub and a tree with a single woody stem (trunk). Leaves: opposite, 3-5 foliolate, leaflets lanceolate, entire or crenate, glabrate, dark-green above, pale greenish-tomentose beneath, central leaflets larger. Flowers: small, bluish purple in lateral cymes, forming an elongated, terminal thyrse. Calyx teeth triangular. Fruits: drupaceous and black when ripe. Seeds: obovate or oblong.

