

Bilva

- **Botanical Name:** *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corrêa
- **Family:** Rutaceae
- **Synonyms:** Sripthal, Shivadruma, Pootivat, Shaelpatra, Lakshmiputra
- **Vernacular Name:** Commonly known as "Bael" in Hindi, "Bengal Quince" in English, and "Vilvam" in Tamil.
- **Classification:** A deciduous tree belonging to the Rutaceae family.
- **Habitat:** Native to the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. It thrives in tropical and subtropical climates, often found in forests, hilly regions, and cultivated lands.
- **Morphology:** A medium-sized tree, growing up to 13–18 meters tall, with a gnarled trunk and spiny branches. The leaves are trifoliolate, aromatic, and ovate. The flowers are greenish-white and fragrant, while the fruits are large, woody, and globose with a sweet, gummy orange pulp.
- **Useful Parts:** Fruits, leaves, roots, bark, and seeds.
- **Chemical Composition:** Contains tannins, volatile oils, mucilage, coumarins, alkaloids, and vitamins like riboflavin and thiamine. The fruit pulp is rich in pectin and carotenoids.
- **Pharmacological Action:** Known for its astringent, digestive, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and antidiabetic properties. It is used in treating diarrhea, dysentery, peptic ulcers, and respiratory disorders.
- **Formulation:** Used in Ayurvedic preparations like Bilvadi Churna, Bael Sharbat, and herbal teas for digestive health.

Rasa: Kasaya, Tikta

Guna: Laghu, Ruksha

Virya: Ushna

Vipaka: Katu