

## *Cassia fistula*

### Scientific classification

Kingdom : Plantae  
Clade : Angiosperms  
Order : Fabales  
Family : Fabaceae  
Genus : *Cassia*  
Species : *C. fistula*



*Cassia fistula*

### DESCRIPTION:

The golden shower tree is a medium-sized tree, growing to 10–20 m (33–66 ft) tall with fast growth. The leaves are deciduous, 15–60 cm (6–24 in) long, and pinnate with three to eight pairs of leaflets, each leaflet 7–21 cm (3–8 in) long and 4–9 cm (1.6–3.5 in) broad. The flowers are produced in pendulous racemes 20–40 cm (8–16 in) long, each flower 4–7 cm (1.6–2.8 in) diameter with five yellow petals of equal size and shape. The fruit is a legume, 30–60 cm (12–24 in) long and 1.5–2.5 cm (0.6–1.0 in) broad, with a pungent odor and containing several seeds. The tree has strong and very durable wood, and has been used to construct "Ehela Kanuwa", a site at Adam's Peak, Sri Lanka, which is made of *C. fistula* (*ahala*, *ehela*, or *aehaela*, in Sinhala heartwood).

### MEDICINAL PLANTS:

Ayurvedic medicine, the golden shower tree is known as *aragvadha*, meaning "disease killer". The fruit pulp is considered a purgative, and self-medication or any use without medical supervision is strongly advised against in Ayurvedic texts. Though it has been used in herbalism for millennia, little research has been conducted in modern times, although it is an ingredient in some mass-produced herbal laxatives. When used as such, it is known as "cassia pods".