

*Lawsonia inermis*

**Scientific classification** 

Kingdom : Plantae  
Clade : Angiosperms  
Order : Myrtales  
Family : Lythraceae  
Subfamily : Lythroideae  
Genus : *Lawsonia*  
Species : *L. inermis*



**DESCRIPTION :**

Henna is a tall **shrub** or small tree, standing 1.8 to 7.6 m tall (6 to 25 ft). It is **glabrous** and multi-branched, with spine-tipped branchlets. The leaves grow opposite each other on the stem. They are glabrous, sub-**sessile**, **elliptical**, and **lanceolate** (long and wider in the middle; average dimensions are 1.5–5.0 cm x 0.5–2 cm or 0.6–2 in x 0.2–0.8 in), **acuminate** (tapering to a long point), and have depressed veins on the **dorsal** surface. Henna flowers have four **sepals** and a 2 mm (0.079 in) **calyx** tube, with 3 mm (0.12 in) spread lobes. Its petals are **ovate**, with white or red **stamens** found in pairs on the rim of the calyx tube. The **ovary** is four-celled, 5 mm (0.20 in) long, and erect. Henna fruits are small, brownish capsules, 4–8 mm (0.16–0.31 in) in diameter, with 32–49 seeds per fruit, and open irregularly into four splits.

**MEDICINAL USES:**

Inermis reported the plant to have antibacterial, antifungal, antiparasitic, antiviral, anticancer, antidiabetic, tuberculostatic, anti-inflammatory, antifertility and wound healing properties.