



Nakshatra Vanam

Uttaraphalguni

Oleander



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Botanical Name:	<i>Nerium oleander</i> L.
Tamil Name:	Arali
Sanskrit Name:	Karavira
English Name:	Oleander
Family Name:	Apocyanaceae

Habitat

Nerium oleander is an evergreen erect shrub, native to the Mediterranean region. Young shoots secrete milky latex. Flowers and fruits occur throughout the year



Temples associated with the Arali Plant:

<i>District</i>	<i>Village/Town</i>	<i>Temple</i>	<i>Deity</i>
Nagapattinam	Thirukaraveeram	Karaveereswarar	Shiva
Tiruchirapalli	Tirunedungalam	Nedungalanathar	Shiva
Tiruvallur	Tirukallil	Shivannandeswarar	Shiva

(Source – Sacred Trees of Tamil Nadu – 2005 by M. Amirthalingam)

Medicinal uses

The root is poisonous but if administered carefully, it is a powerful cardiac tonic. Fresh leaf juice is used as eye drops to reduce swelling and improve eye sight. A paste of the root is applied externally to treat ulcers, leprosy, skin diseases, scorpion sting and snake bites (Bor and Raizada,1990; Shivarajan and Indira,1994).

Other Uses

This plant is a collector of dust and gaseous pollutants from the atmosphere. It is suitable to be planted along roadsides with heavy vehicular traffic, and around industrial areas (Boralkar, 1984).



Religious Association

It is sacred to both Shiva and Vishnu. The fragrant flowers are offered to Lord Shiva. (Birdwood, 1986).

