



## **GOLDEN SHOWER TREE**

*(Cassia fistula)*

Originally from India and Ceylon this tree has spread throughout the tropics. It grows to over 10 m in height and is cultivated nowadays as an outstanding ornamental tree as well as a shade tree. Though it prefers moist soil, it will grow in dry areas.

The upper branches of the tree tend to droop. It has large compound leaves that have 4 - 8 large leaflets. The tree is deciduous shedding all its leaves in the dry season - at that time they may be covered with masses of delicate looking yellow flowers. The flowers are borne in inflorescences which hang down from the branches. The fruits are long pendulous pods about ½ m in length and circular in shape. They are green at first but become a dark shiny brown when mature.

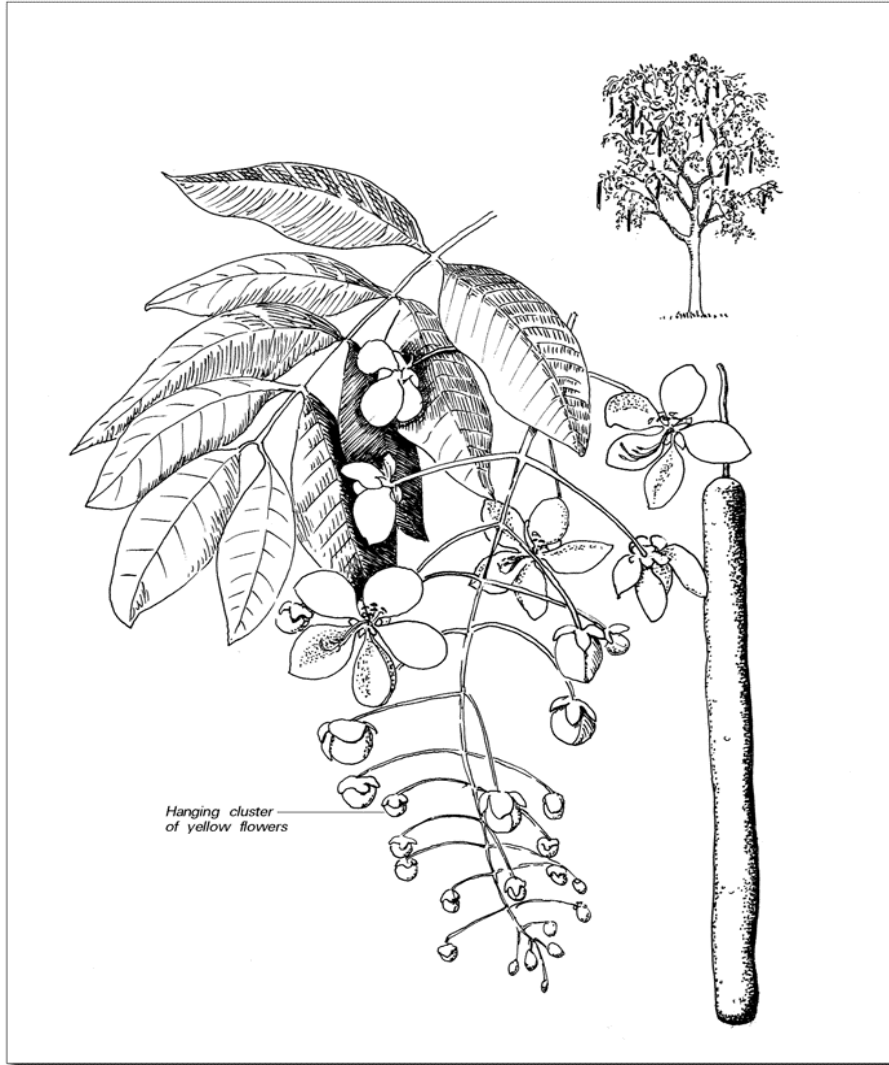
The fruits produce a brown sticky pulp around the seeds. This pulp has been used as a laxative for centuries in Jamaica, in India and other parts of the East where the plant originates. Other parts, such as the bark and flowers, have also been used medicinally.

In India, its bark has been used for tanning and the making of a dye. Its brick-red wood has a lovely finish when polished and is used in the making of cabinets and other furniture.



## GOLDEN SHOWER TREE (*Cassia fistula*)

Family: <b>Caesalpinaeae</b>	Species: <i>Cassia fistula</i>	Author: Linnaeus
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Height: 15m	Habitat: Lowlands	Persistence: Deciduous
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