**Neem**

*Azadirachta indica* Meliaceae

**Botanical description and location:** An evergreen tree, native to the Indian subcontinent and naturalized in many other tropical regions. It grows up to 16 metres. The leaves are compound and it has small white flowers.

**Part used:**  Leaves and oil from seed. Twigs are used to brush the teeth (much in the way oak twigs have been used in Ireland)

**Cultivation and harvesting:**  It is grown from seed and the leaves and seeds are harvested throughout the year.

**History/Folklore/Taste and energetics:** The tree is highly valued in India; it is seen as a medicine chest due to its wide range of uses and is planted to purify the air.Bitter, cooling

**Constituents:** Triterpenes, limonoids, fixed oil, polysaccharides. Azadirachtins are insecticidal and inhibit insect feeding and growth.

**Actions:**Alterative, antipruritic, anti-inflammatory, antipyretic, antiseptic, antibacterial, antifungal, antiprotozoal, antimalarial, anthelmintic, bitter tonic, antacid, hypoglycemic

**Uses:**

**Leaf**

* Inflamed skin conditions, and skin infections
* Intestinal inflammation and hyperacidity
* Clears mucus from the GIT and heals fissures, haemorrhoids and fistulas
* Chronic gut dysbiosis
* Intestinal worms
* Diabetes
* Toothache and mouth hygiene
* Fevers – acute and intermittent
* Lowers sperm count
* Affinity for uterus and reduces inflammation there
* Malaria
* Peptic ulcers
* Infusion as eye wash for conjunctivitis

**Oil**

* Wounds, boils, eczema
* Scabies and ringworm
* Head lice

**Sap**

* Leprosy