

# Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

## Neem (preparation & use) (402)

### Summary

- Worldwide. South and Southeast Asia, Africa, South and Central America, the Caribbean, Oceania. In Australia, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and many other Pacific island countries.
- Fast growing evergreen tree, 20 m high, mahogany family, long flexible leaves with 20-30 paired leaflets; fruits oval, yellow when ripe, 3 cm long.
- Used as pesticide against moths, aphids, leaf and plant hoppers, leaf miners, grasshoppers, scale insects, whiteflies and nematodes.
- Spray in evening to avoid leaf burn and destruction by sunlight.
- Use fresh:
  - 1 kg/5 litre water, soak overnight (preferably pound first, or after soaking).
  - Squeeze leaves, strain, add about 20 g soap, and use.
- Use dried:
  - Collect leaves, dry and store.
  - Add 250 g/5 litre water, soak overnight, pound, soak again overnight.
  - Squeeze, strain, add about 20 g soap, and use.
- Use seeds:
  - Select yellow fruit, dry 3-4 days in the sun.
  - Pound to remove seed, winnow; pound seeds to fine powder.
  - Add 250g/5 litre water, mix, soak 24 hours.
  - Strain, add 20 g soap, and use.

### Common Name

Neem

### Scientific Name

*Azadirachta indica*



Photo 1. Mature neem tree.



Photo 2. Neem leaves.



Photo 3. Neem flowers.



Photo 4. Neem fruits.



Photo 5. Neem leaflets stripped from the midrib, and ready for pounding.



Photo 6. Neem leaves pounded with a stick.



Photo 7. Squeezing out the neem juice, and wearing gloves.

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Information from *Azadirachta indica* (Neem) Bio-NET-EAFRINET. ([https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Azadirachta\\_indica\\_\(Neem\).htm](https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Azadirachta_indica_(Neem).htm)); and *Azadirachta indica* Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azadirachta\\_indica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azadirachta_indica)); and from Campos EVR (2016) Neem oil and crop protection: from now to the future. *Frontiers in Plant Science*. (<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2016.01494/full>). Photo 3 JM Garg *Azadirachta indica* in Hyderabad, India.

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