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TROPICAL PLANT CATALOG

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*Adansonia digitata*

Family: Bombacaceae

**Baobab, Cream of Tartar tree, Monkey-bread tree, Lemonade tree**

Origin: South Africa



Regarded as the largest succulent in the world, the baobab tree is steeped in a wealth of mystique, legend and superstition wherever it occurs in Africa. It is a tree that can provide food, water, shelter, and relief from sickness. During drought, elephants obtain moisture by chewing on the wood. The stem is covered with a bark layer, which may be 50-100 mm thick. The leaves are hand-sized and divided into 5-7 finger-like leaflets. The baobab is a deciduous, meaning that in winter, it sheds all of its leaves and grows new ones in spring. The large, pendulous flowers (up to 200 mm in diameter) are white and sweetly scented, that are pollinated by bats. They are followed by velvety fruits full of edible acidic pulp sought by both monkeys and people. In the dryer, temperate regions of Africa, Baobabs are a tree of myth and legend. Baobabs are carefully tended by rural peoples and are particularly useful: the hollow trunks of baobabs are used as dwellings and storehouses, traditional medicines are obtained from its bark, leaves, and fruit. Its bark can be pounded to produce fibers that are used to make baskets, cloth, hats, mats, nets, rope, and strings (interestingly, after the bark is stripped away, the baobab grows new bark). Its leaves are cooked and eaten as greens, and are dried for use as a seasoning and a sauce and stew thickener. Its fruit is rich in vitamin C, calcium, and iron, and is called pain de singe or monkey bread. It can be roasted, ground, and boiled to make a coffee-substitute; it is also soaked in water to make a refreshing drink, and is used as a flavoring. They will make a handsome addition to a large garden, estate, or large parkland providing the soil is not waterlogged. Baobabs cannot tolerate even mild frost. When they are young, baobabs do not resemble their adult counterparts, the stems are thin and inconspicuous, and their leaves are simple and not divided into the five to seven lobes of the adult trees. Saplings can be effectively grown in containers or tubs for many years before becoming too large and requiring to be planted into the ground. [See photo of mature plant.](#)

See [article about this tree.](#)

Also placed in Malvaceae ssp. Bombacoideae.

Similar plants:

- [Adansonia gregorii \(Boab, Baobab, Australian Bottle Tree\)](#)
- [Adansonia madagascariensis \(Madagascar Baobab\)](#)
- [Adansonia rubrostipa \(Baobab\)](#)
- [Bauhinia rufescens, Adenolobus rufescens, Bauhinia adansoniana \(Kharoub, Kukul, Nammare, Jiga, Randa\)](#)

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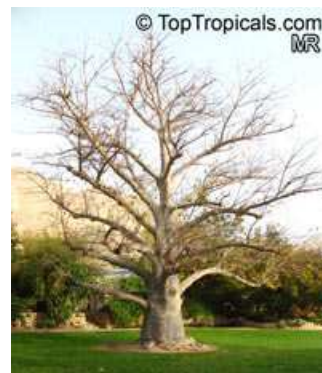
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Adansonia digitata (Bombaceae)

Adansonia digitata seeds

Link to this plant: [http://toptropicals.com/catalog/uid/adansonia\\_digitata.htm](http://toptropicals.com/catalog/uid/adansonia_digitata.htm)



### 2836 Adansonia digitata - Baobab

Baobab. The massive, usually squat cylindrical trunk gives rise to thick tapering branches resembling a root-system, which is why it has often been referred to as the upside-down tree. Regarded as the largest succulent plant in the world, the baobab tree is steeped in a wealth of mystique, legend and superstition wherever it occurs in Africa. It is a tree that can provide, food, water, shelter and relief from sickness.

**THIS ITEM IS CERTIFIED FOR [SHIPPING TO CALIFORNIA](#).**

Grown in 3 gal pot

5 Plants in stock

\$49.95

Qty:

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### 2698 Adansonia digitata - seeds

Baobab. The massive, usually squat cylindrical trunk gives rise to thick tapering branches resembling a root-system, which is why it has often been referred to as the upside-down tree. Regarded as the largest succulent plant in the world, the baobab tree is steeped in a wealth of mystique, legend and superstition wherever it occurs in Africa.

Soak the seeds for 2-3 days, changing water. Plant 1" deep in well drained soil. Keep warm and damp. Bright sun.

[Ordering seeds info](#)

Per pack: 4 large seeds

In stock

\$3.95

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