

SINGAPORE CHERRY

Singapore Cherry trees are short trees that grow upto 12 metres in height. The branches of this tree spread out wide and this makes the tree look like a big umbrella! These trees grow very fast and can survive in difficult conditions with little water.



LEAVES

The leaves of the Singapore Cherry tree are oval with a pointed tip. Many insects and spiders take shelter among the leaves, including the colourful two-striped jumping spider. The leaves are covered with tiny hair.

Observe and touch the leaves of this tree. What would happen if you put a few drops of water on the leaves; do they stick or roll off?



FLOWERS

This tree has small white flowers. How many petals can you count? You might spot bees and butterflies on these flowers - like the dwarf honey bee, which is a small honey bee and also an important pollinator.



FRUITS

The fruit of the Singapore Cherry is a small, round berry. The fruit is green when it is unripe and turns red when it is ripe. The ripe, red fruit has a sweet smell. Inside the fruit are many, tiny yellow seeds. During the day, you may see birds like the red whiskered bulbul or the pale billed flowerpecker eating the berries. At night, listen for the fluttering and high pitched squeaks of fruit bats - they love this fruit as well!

Have you ever eaten the fruits of this tree? How does it taste? Does the taste remind you of anything else you have eaten?



BARK

The bark of this tree is usually light brown or brownish-gray. Younger trees have a smooth bark while older trees have a rough bark with grooves. The tree's trunk makes for a good path for ants like the golden backed ant to travel up and down looking for food.

Look at the bark carefully to find other insects and spiders hiding on the tree trunk!

