

# NEEM

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# HEALER

What makes this tree worthy to be named Tree of the 21st Century?

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**H**uman ingenuity has led to wondrous feats, from fire to complex social structure. Man has taken apart and put together everything he could lay his hands on—splitting atoms, reaching for the moon, mapping the human genome, connecting the world. We are living in an age of unprecedented technological strides.

The challenge before us now is to link the wisdom of our past with current knowledge and technology to find ecologically sound solutions to emerging global issues such as climate change and pollution.

For thousands of years, humans have sought to fortify their health and cure various ills with herbal remedies. The search for the true *panacea*, or cure-all, has been undertaken by virtually every civilization. While hundreds of substances have been tried and tested, only one has truly withstood modern science scrutiny. Perhaps no other botanical better meets the true definition of a *panacea* than the neem tree, a tropical evergreen belonging to

the mahogany family and native to India and Myanmar.

Every part of this fascinating tree has been used from ancient to modern times to treat hundreds of maladies. While other herbs such as ginseng are better-known, comprehensive research has proven that neem has a wider array of uses than any other plant. While it has always been revered in India, recent research has dramatically increased worldwide interest in neem, leading to new products being manufactured and distributed around the globe.

The first recorded use of neem was several thousand years ago, as ancient Indian cultures used it as an integral part of dozens of health and beauty aids. The 5,000-year-old botanical healing system known as

Ayurveda has utilized neem formulations. Medicinal attributes of neem were extolled in the oldest Sanskrit writings. No wonder the United Nations declared the neem tree to be “the tree of the 21st century.”

It is only in recent years that the rest of the world has shown interest in neem’s versatility and potential. International scientific research has explored neem’s ability to prevent and treat an astonishing number of health disorders, including those not successfully addressed by conventional pharmaceuticals.

Every part of the neem tree—bark, cake, fruit, flowers, gum, honey, leaves, seed oil, pulp, resin and root—has medicinal value. The trees help prevent environmental pollution and soil erosion, and rehabilitate degraded ecosystems and wastelands. Neem trees are recommended for reforestation, are useful for wind breaks in areas of low rainfall and high-speed wind, protect crops, and can be made into non-toxic



Klaus Ferlow next to a neem tree

pesticides, veterinarian medicine and cosmetics.

My own experience with neem has been nothing short of a miracle. I suffered for more than 40 years with severe psoriasis on my scalp and elbows. However, when I started using neem cream, shampoo, oil, tincture, and soap, I found myself free of psoriasis!

Of all the plants that have proven useful throughout the ages, few have offered as much value and versatility as the neem tree. With growing research supporting its healing properties, neem is finally getting the attention it deserves. 🌿

