Singapore Cherry
Muntingia calabura

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Singapore Cherry
*Muntingia calabura*

- Native: southern Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and western South America south to Peru and Bolivia
- Family: Elaeocarpaceae
- Height: 7 to 12 m tall
- Leaf Shape: Serrated
- Evergreen tree
- Fruit is edible
- Drought-resistant but not salt-tolerant
Singapore Cherry
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- **Marathi:** Paanchara
- **Telugu:** Nakkaaregu
- **Tamil:** pazham, ten pazham
- **Kannada:** Gasagase, hannina mara

Singapore cherry is also called as Jamaica Cherry, Panama Cherry, Strawberry tree, Jam tree & Cotton Candy berry.
Plant is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds.

Flowers resemble strawberry bloom, hence the common name, Strawberry tree.
Fast growing fruit tree

After the flowers are pollinated, there will be lots of the berries growing

Once ripe, the flowers start to bloom again

After one crop of berries is harvested, the flowers will pollinate back into fruit.

Fruit tree will grow for many years
Leaves are evergreen, alternate, lanceolate or ovate, long-pointed at the apex, oblique at the base and covered with tiny sticky hairs.

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Small flowers with 5 green sepals and 5 white petals and many prominent yellow stamens and slightly malodorous.

Flowers lasts only one day, the petals falling in the afternoon.

*Singapore cherry*
*Muntingia calabura*
Fruits are round, 1-1.25 cm wide, with red or sometimes yellow, smooth, thin, tender skin

**Singapore cherry**
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Light-brown, soft, juicy pulp, with very sweet, musky, fig-like flavor
Fruits contain hundreds of tiny seeds which are minute, yellowish too fine to be noticed in eating.

**Singapore cherry**

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Fruits are borne nearly all over the year.
Seeds are dispersed by birds and fruit bats

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Medicinal Value

- An infusion of the flowers is valued as an antispasmodic which relieves headache, first symptoms of a cold and abdominal cramps.

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Uses

- Fruits can be processed into jams and tarts
- Leaves are used for making tea
- In Brazil, they are planted on river banks so their fallen fruit attracts fish which are then caught
- Timber is reddish-brown which is compact, durable and lightweight and can be used for carpentry.
- Timber is also used as firewood as it lights quickly and produces intense heat with little smoke.
- Bark is used to produce ropes and fiber for bark skirts.
Commonly planted in parking lots

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Used in urban gardens for its ability to grow fast and attractiveness to small fruit eating birds like flowerpeckers.
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