

The Carob Tree	<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Ḧarruba
Common English name	Scientific name	Maltese name

Where is this tree found in the world – (Species Distribution)

The carob tree is endemic to the Mediterranean region and the Middle East. It was probably introduced in the Maltese Islands many years ago around the 1490s and now considered an indigenous Maltese tree.

What is the preferred habitat for this tree?

It grows in relatively arid, warm temperate and subtropical areas, tolerating coastal heat and humidity too.

Is it green all year (evergreen), or does it change according to the season (deciduous)?

It is an evergreen.

How tall can it grow? (Usual or maximum height)

It may grow very tall (max 15m) with elaborate branches.

What are the leaves and flowers like?

The leaves are green, round and leathery. It also produces many small female or male flowers.



What are the fruits like?

It produces edible long (about 23cm) legume pods which are initially green and then turn brown once mature. According to different traditions, the pods contain seeds and honey-like substance for which it is harvested to produce syrups or powders as a substitute for chocolate.

What do humans use this tree for?

Apart from being characteristic of the Maltese wild countryside, thus contributing to its conservation in the Mediterranean region, carob pods are used to produce syrup used to care for sore throats or colds.

Does this tree have legal protection?

Protected by law: schedule II of legal notice LN200/2011 & 2018 list of trees within protected areas and areas outside the ODZ, in green areas, and natural or rural/green enclaves in urban areas (development zone), or in urban public open spaces (according to the ERA 2018 list of trees and woodland protection regulations).