

Chaste Tree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Sigret il-virgi
Common English name	Scientific name	Maltese name

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

This Chaste tree species is native to the Mediterranean region and Western Asia.

What is the preferred habitat for this tree?

It is often found in the arid and semi-arid shrubland in well-drained and poor soil.

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

It is deciduous.

How tall can it grow? (height)

It may grow to a max of 3m.

What are the leaves and flowers like?

This shrub has long, finger-shaped green leaves. It blooms from June to October.

The flowers are insect-pollinated.



What are the fruits like?

The Vitex agnus-castus fruit (chaste berry or monk's pepper) is about a peppercorn size.

What do humans use this tree for?

It is used as herbal medicine, apart from as an ornamental shrub.

Does this tree have legal protection?

It is strictly protected by law through schedule I of LN200/2011 AND schedule III + VI of LN311/2006 (according to the ERA 2018 list of trees and woodland protection regulations).