

Dimocarpus longan

[Synonyms : *Euphoria litchi*, *Euphoria longan*, *Euphoria longana*, *Euphoria malaiensis*, *Euphoria sinensis*, *Euphoria verruculosa*, *Nephelium longan*, *Nephelium longana*, *Nephelium long-yan*, *Nephelium malaiensis*]

LONGAN (Czech, English, French, German, Russian) is an evergreen tree. Native to India it has small yellowish-white flowers.

It is also known as *Anshphal* (Bengali), *Cat's eye*, *Dragon's eye*, *Gui yuan* (Chinese), *Lam yai* (Thai), *Lengkeng* (Indonesian, Malay), *Lohikäärmeen silmät* (Finnish), *Longán* (Spanish), *Longana* (Portuguese), *Longanbaum* (German), *Longanbeere* (German), *Longane* (French, German), *Longanier* (French), *Longano* (Esperanto), *Long nhan* (Vietnamese), *Long yan* (Chinese), *Longyen*, *Lungan* (English, Malay), *Lung ngaan tree*, *Lung-yen* (Chinese), *Mamoncillo chino* (Cuban, Spanish), *Mata kucing* (Malay), *Nagalichi* (Assamese), *Nhãn* (Vietnamese), *Oeil de dragon* (French), *Olho-de dragão* (Brazilian, Portuguese), *Pasa-kotta* (Malayalam), *Puvatti* (Tamil), *Rongan* (Japanese), *Ryugan* (Japanese), *Yang yan guo shu* (Chinese), and *Yuan yan* (Chinese).

Longan is derived from a Chinese name *Lung-yen* (dragon eye) with reference to the white, eye-shaped marking on the fruit's central shiny black seed.

Authorities note that longan trees, which are a familiar sight in Hong Kong, can live up to 400 years.

The small red, pink or yellowish-brown fruit are eaten locally. The Chinese dry the pulp for use as a flavouring in food or on special occasions in tea – and they also can the fruit.

The seeds have been used as a shampoo in China for washing hair.

The moderately hard, red wood has been used both for general construction and for making furniture.

Medicinally, part of the fruit has been used in India to treat fevers. The flowers are used in Chinese medicine and the fruit flesh is dried and used to make a tonic tea.