

Botanic name : *Mirabilis jalapa* L.

Common name : The marvel of Peru, four o'clock, Chandra Kantha

Family : Nyctaginaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Tropical American origin; naturalized in warmer parts of Australia, USA and New Zealand and many Pacific islands; introduced in India, Africa (becoming invasive in Kenya & Uganda) and subtropical zone

Description : Multi branched Perennial shrub with glabrous stem growing up to 2 m, leaves are egg-shaped with acute apex and broad end at base, oblong or triangular.; stems are swollen at nodes. Flowers are fragrant, occur in groups of 3-7, bloom at afternoon, tubular/trumpet in shape, white, pink or red in color, up to 6.5 long by 3.5 wide bearing 5-6 stamens. Roots are tuberous. Small fruit is one-seeded capsule (anthocarp).

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids, glycosides, saponins, tannins, inulin, phytosterols, flavonoids, volatile oils, terpenoids

Medicinal/Economic uses : Ornamental; medicinally used as antiviral & antibacterial agent as well as in stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, skin diseases, urinary tract disorder, nausea; used as cathartic, carminative, purgative, stomachic, tonic, anti-dysenteric, anti-parasitic, wound healer, digestive stimulant. Pharmacologically bioactivity include anti-diabetic, anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidative, antibacterial, anti-microbial, anti-fungal, anti-spasmodic, antinociceptivity, diuretic, anthelmentic properties. The flower color of the plant has immense biological value in advanced study of Heredity.