

PHYTOCACCA AMERICANA



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Phytolacca, commonly known in Turkish as "şekerci boyası" or "American berry" is a genus of plants, most of which are perennial herbaceous plants and rarely trees. The best-known species are *Phytolacca americana* and *Phytolacca dioica*.



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Phytolacca dioica (Ombu tree or Bela Sombra tree) is a massive, evergreen tree native to South America, reaching heights of 12-18 meters and diameters of up to 15 meters. Flowering occurs from mid-summer to autumn, in clusters of white-green flowers. The fruits are flattened-spherical, initially green, turning purplish-black as they ripen, forming shiny, grape-like berries.

Cultivation and Uses

- It thrives best at temperatures between 20°C and 38°C.
- It can tolerate temperatures as low as -9°C (15°F) for short periods; however, frost at 0°C and below may cause leaf drop or wilting. It prefers full sun or light shade. Young seedlings can tolerate light shade, while mature trees require plenty of light.



- Its primary use is to provide shade. Thanks to its wide, umbrella-like crown that can reach 12-15 meters in diameter, it is preferred in parks and large gardens to create a cooling area.
- Ornamental Plant: With its magnificent trunk, it is used as a decorative tree in landscape projects.