



TREE SPECIES (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

# *Heliocarpus americanus*

PERU COMMON NAME

Chalanca blanca

TREE FAMILY

**MALVACEAE**

AVERAGE LEAF SIZE (CM)

**15cm** × **12.5cm**  
Length Width

DISTRIBUTION



**NATIVE TO PERU**

ELEVATIONAL RANGE (M)

**350–3000M**

TREE HEIGHT

**SHRUB (1–10M)**



NATIVE TO

**Region:** Americas

**Latin America:** Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela

## COFFEE AGROFORESTRY INFORMATION

COFFEE SYSTEM



**ARABICA**

COFFEE IMPACT



**BENEFICIAL TO COFFEE**

TREE MANAGEMENT

Planted by seeds. It produces fruits that resemble eyelashes that house one to two seeds. Plant the seeds as soon as they are ripe. A high germination rate can usually be expected, and seeds sprout within 10 to 12 days. When the seedlings are 3-5 cm tall, plant them in individual containers. They will be ready to plant outside less than 4 months later. It has a low incidence of pests.

CULTIVATION



**PLANTED**

PREVALENCE



**COMMON IN COFFEE AGROFORESTRY**

## TREE BENEFITS AND USES

FARMER USES



**Lumber, Product**

Used to make boxes, toys, and pencils. The bark of the young branches produces a strong and durable fiber from which a thick rope is made. It is also used to weave mats and baskets.

FARM SERVICES



**Coffee Shade, Soil Improvement**

Coffee Shade: provides sparse to medium shade

BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS



**YES**

It retains insects that serve as food for insectivorous birds such as tyrants, vireos, and greenlets, and birds that supplement their diet with insects such as tanagers. The dried fruits are also used as material for hummingbird nests.

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Tropical Plants Database, Ken Fern. [tropical.theferns.info](http://tropical.theferns.info). 2022-06-22. [tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Heliocarpus+americanus](http://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Heliocarpus+americanus);

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Mendoza, A. L. M., & Guerrero, M. H. (2010). Catálogo de los árboles y afines de la Selva Central del Perú. *Arnaldia*, 17, 203-242.