

Guiana Chestnut *Pachira aquatica* Money Tree



With a braided trunk and lush, glossy leaves, it's no wonder the Chinese Money Tree plant is so popular. Said to bring luck and wealth, this plant adds vitality to any home! While we can't guarantee the Chinese Money Tree will attract wealth to you, we can guarantee it will add a unique touch to your home or office.

Getting to Know the Chinese Money Tree

A "money tree" is actually multiple *Pachira aquatica* trees braided together during growth. *Pachira aquatica* is a broadleaf evergreen native to Central and South America and has many common names including Good Luck Tree, Malabar chestnut, Guiana Chestnut, French Peanut, Saba Nut, Monguba, Pumpo, Provision Tree, and Wild Kapok Tree.

In the wild, Chinese Money Trees can grow up to 60 feet tall. A braided Money Tree plant can grow from anywhere between one and eight feet tall.

One might expect that the symbolism of the money tree goes back centuries. In reality, the first modern Money Tree was cultivated in Taiwan as a bonsai by a truck driver in the 1980s! It quickly became a symbol of prosperity and highly sought after by Feng Shui practitioners. Now, Money Trees are grown in a variety of forms, including smaller Mini Money Trees, larger Money Trees, and multiple Money Tree plants grown together in the same pot aka the Money Tree Forest.

Symbolism and Feng Shui of The Money Tree

A legend was born along with the cultivation of the Money Tree:



A man who was down on his luck prayed for prosperity, and soon discovered the money tree and took it home. He soon realized that from its seeds he could cultivate many more trees. He made a business selling these beautiful trees to others and made his fortune.

That is why the Money Tree is a popular gift in East Asian culture — in business as well as personal affairs.

In Feng Shui, there are several plants that can be used to promote abundance, but the Money Tree is favorable in many ways.

The braided trunk of the Chinese Money Tree is said to be able to trap fortune within its folds. The five leaves typically found on a stalk are said to represent the five elements of balance: earth, fire, water, wind, and metal. Finding a stalk with seven leaves is incredibly rare and also said to bring immense luck to the owner.

In terms of placement, many businesses keep a Mini Money Tree near their cash register for good fortune. Within the home, the most common placement to promote wealth is in the southeast corner.

Money tree, known botanically as *pachira aquatica* and also as Malabar chestnut, is a large shrub or tree that produces flowers and fruit in the summer and fall. In common parlance, money tree refers to the young saplings or bonsai versions of *pachira* grown as indoor plants. *Pachira* trees are thought to bring luck and prosperity by followers of the Feng Shui philosophy, due to the plant's association with the lucky number 5 and the chi-improving power of live green and flowering plants. As the practice and awareness of feng shui has grown, so has the talismanic allure and widespread availability of the money tree.

Select a specimen of money tree that has five young sappling trunks braided together to layer and increase the plants power to pull good luck and prosperity to you and the space the tree inhabits. The more repetitions of the number five that the objects hold or represent, the more significant its power to draw in the good is thought to be.

Place a money tree in your home, work area or business to bring good luck and fortune or prosperity to you and your loved ones in that environment. In Feng Shui, wealth and prosperity is signified by wood and water elements and the color green. The tree trunk consists of wood, the leaves green and the plant is water loving so *pachira* is a clear analog for this Feng Shui belief. Give the gift of a money tree to bless the recipient with this same good luck and prosperity.

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Choose to have a pachira in your personal space for its five-lobed leaves, which signify the five key elements of feng shui practice: wood, water, metal, earth and fire. Five is also significant in Chinese culture as it represents the five primary colors in the visible light spectrum and well as the five elements of taste.

