

Albizia julibrissin

COMMON NAME

Mimosa, silk tree

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Albizia julibrissin Durazz.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not assessed

DISTRIBUTION

Still sparingly naturalized in the northern North Island and near Nelson in the South Island. Silk tree in the last decade has started to naturalize more freely and saplings are now commonly seen in the vicinity of planted trees but also, more worryingly on forest margins and along waterways where one presumes seed pods have floated.

FEATURES

A small-medium sized tree, 6-14m tall. Light brown bark, nearly smooth and thin, with lens shaped areas along the stem. Leaves are fern-like and finely divided, 13-20cm long x 8-10cm wide, and alternate along the stems. Showy pink pom-pom flowers, about 4 cm long, are arranged in panicles at the ends of branches. Flat straw-coloured pods about 15cm long contain light brown oval shaped seeds. Pods ripen Feb-March and remain on trees into winter.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

YEAR NATURALISED

1981

ORIGIN

Asia, from Turkey to Japan

ETYMOLOGY

albizia: Named after Filippo del Albizzi, an 18th century Florentine nobleman who introduced *A. julibrissin* into cultivation in Europe.

Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/albizia-julibrissin/>



Albizia julibrissin. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



A *Albizia julibrissin* plant in flower. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth