

Albizia julibrissin

COMMON NAMES

Mimosa, silk tree

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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.

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.

GENUS

Albizia

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Albizia julibrissin Durazz.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1981

ORIGIN

Asia, from Turkey to Japan

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

ETYMOLOGY

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



Whanganui. Feb 2011. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Dec 2006. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

NVS CODE

ALBJUL

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026