

# What's That Bloomin' Thing?

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*Albizia julibrissin*

Pink Silk Tree

Mimosa



# Scientific Name

**Family:** *Fabaceae*

**Genus:** *Albizia*

**Species:** *A. julibrissin*

**Common:** *Mimosa, Silk Tree*

- The genus is named after the Italian nobleman Filippo degli Albizzi, who introduced it to Europe in the mid-18th century
- The specific epithet *julibrissin* means "silk flower" from Persian





# Characteristics

- **Group:** Dicot
- **Duration:** Perennial
- **Origin habitat:** Iran, China, Japan
- **Zone:** 6 to 9
- **Bloom Time:** June to July
- **Sun:** Full sun to part shade
- **Tolerate:** Drought
- Spreading to Low Canopy, Rounded, Umbrella Shape.
- **Height:** 20 - 35 feet   **Width:** 20 feet
- **Growth Rate:** 36 In/yr   **Longevity:** Less than 50 years.
- **Leaves:** Bipinnately Compound, 6''-20'' long. Leaflets are feathery, Dark Green. Deciduous





# Flowers

- **Flower:** Fluffy, pink, or Rose powder puff flowerheads with long summer bloom. Grow clusters. *Flowers are fragrant and attract bees, butterflies & hummingbirds.*
- Has perfect flowers (male and female parts in each flower).
- Flowers give way to flat bean-like seed pods (up to 7" long) which persist into winter.
- Each pod contains an average of 8 seeds. The pods ripen in August to September. They burst in strong winds, and seeds carry over surprisingly long distances





# The Sleeping Tree

- Sensitive leaflets close and bow downwards during the night, rains, sudden variation in temp or light
- Plant senses when its safe to re-animate the leaves





# Invasive Species

- In wild it grows in dry plains, sandy valleys, along roadsides, and along banks of waterways
- Seeds are numerous and they are fertile even over long periods of drought.
- Fix Nitrogen via root symbionts, so can tolerate various soil types & conditions
- Breeding under way in the United States to produce ornamental plants which will not set seed.
- Because of its invasive tendencies, Mimosa tree has made it to the “least wanted list”!



# The Mimosa Controversy

*But it's so pretty!*

- “I love this tree, and it makes me sad how it gets criticized. This is the most beautiful, fragrant tree in the world, and it makes me happy to have one in my yard. Whenever I feel bad, my mimosa cheers me up.”

*-Annietree from Colonial Heights, VA.*

- “This is the most beautiful tree in the world. It is very exotic, easy to climb when large, beautiful flowers, lovely scent, attracts hummingbirds, and lovely little old ladies adore it. I can't even believe there is this much negativity. My neighbors keep killing my seedlings in MY yard. I have never been able to get one past 7 feet and have grown that high only to be cut down... in MY fenced yard! I cry every time and have warned them. Otherwise they are good neighbors.”

*-Stumpy from Harrison, AR.*





# Then again...

➤ “I have NOT and Will Not grow this tree. In Florida the Mimosa is a very invasive tree. Yes, I think it's very pretty, but conserving our native eco system is much more important than having a 'pretty' tree. Please, Please do not tout this tree!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

*-Inez, Florida Master Gardener. Ocala, FL.*

➤ Every time I see one of these "trees" in my neighborhoods I cringe. I once trimmed a branch hanging over into my yard and was subdued by an allergic reaction. That branch came back, growing eight(!) feet in a year. I cannot stress the negative aspects of this plant enough. Please PLEASE do not purchase, sell or cultivate (actively or passively) and get rid of any small ones that you can. You may not even be able to chop it down, or spray Round-Up on it, or pull them without them coming back they are that bad.

*-GreenerBlues from Cary, NC.*







Thank You!



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