

## Scientific Name:

*Albizia julibrissin*

## Common Name:

- Persian Silk Tree
- Mimosa Tree
- Pink Silk Tree
- Silk Tree

## Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A deciduous tree that can reach up to 10-16 meters tall, often with a spreading, umbrella-shaped canopy.
- **Leaves:** Bipinnate, fern-like leaves that are finely divided, giving the tree a soft, delicate appearance. Each leaf is made up of numerous tiny leaflets, which fold up at night or when disturbed.
- **Flowers:** Distinctive, fluffy, pink to whitish-pink flowers with long, silky stamens. The flowers grow in clusters and are very fragrant.
- **Pods:** Flat, brown, bean-like seed pods that are about 15 cm long. The pods contain several seeds and persist on the tree even after the leaves drop in autumn.
- **Bark:** Smooth, light brown to gray bark that becomes rougher with age.

## Cultural Importance:

- In Chinese and traditional Eastern medicine, the bark and flowers of *Albizia julibrissin* are considered to have calming properties and are often used to reduce stress, anxiety, and insomnia. The tree is referred to as the “Tree of Happiness” in Chinese herbal medicine because of its mood-enhancing effects.
- The tree is also a symbol of peace and joy, often planted in gardens for its aesthetic value and fragrant blooms.
- In some cultures, the tree is associated with protection, and its wood is sometimes used to create amulets.

## Uses:

- **Medicinal:**
  - The flowers and bark are used in traditional medicine to calm the mind and promote emotional well-being.
  - It is thought to have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and mood-enhancing properties, often used in teas or herbal tinctures.
- **Ornamental:**
  - The tree is widely planted as an ornamental due to its beautiful, showy flowers and attractive, feathery foliage.
  - It's often used in landscape design, parks, and gardens for its wide, spreading canopy that provides ample shade.

- **Ecological:**
  - *Albizia julibrissin* fixes nitrogen in the soil, improving soil fertility. However, in some regions, it is considered invasive due to its ability to spread quickly.
- **Wood:**
  - The wood is sometimes used for small craft projects, though it is not a primary timber species.

**Picture Description:**

- **Whole Tree:** A medium-sized tree with a wide, umbrella-like canopy. The foliage is fern-like and light, with pink clusters of fluffy flowers dotting the branches.
- **Leaves:** Delicate, bipinnate leaves composed of numerous small leaflets, giving the tree a feathery appearance.
- **Flower:** Pink, silky, fluffy flowers with long stamens, resembling delicate brushes. These flowers are fragrant and grow in clusters.
- **Pod:** Long, flat, brown seed pods that appear after the flowering season and persist on the tree throughout the winter.
- **Bark:** Smooth, light gray-brown bark that becomes rougher as the tree ages.

