

# *Albizia julibrissin* 'Alba': 'Alba' Mimosa Tree<sup>1</sup>

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## *Albizia julibrissin*

[View Assessment](#)

North, Central, South

**Invasive (No Uses)**

Invasive and not recommended by IFAS. Will be reassessed every 10 years. Specified and limited uses may be considered by the IFAS Invasive Plants Working Group.

## Introduction

This fast-growing, deciduous tree has a low branching, open, spreading habit and delicate, lacy, almost fern-like foliage. Fragrant, silky, white puffy pompom blooms, two inches in diameter, appear in abundance from late April to early July creating a spectacular sight. The tree produces numerous seed pods and harbors insect (webworm) and disease (vascular wilt) problems. Although rather short-lived (10 to 20 years), mimosa is popular for use as a terrace or patio tree for its light, dappled shade and tropical effect. Its deciduous nature allows the warming sun to penetrate during the winter. This species is considered invasive and is not recommended for planting in Florida.

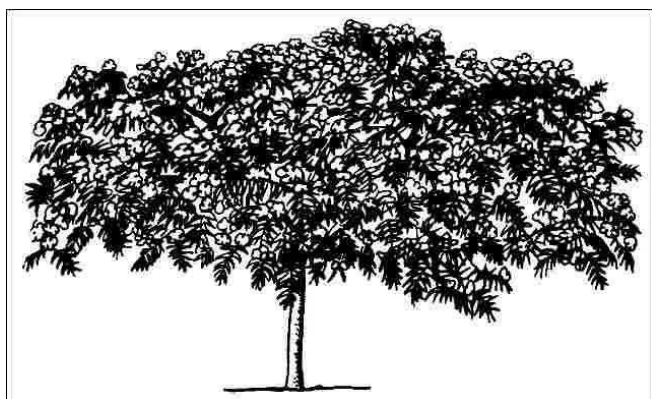


Figure 1. Mature ☹ *Albizia julibrissin* 'Alba': 'Alba' mimosa tree.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Albizia julibrissin*

**Pronunciation:** al-BIZ-zee-uh joo-lih-BRISS-in

**Common name(s):** 'Alba' mimosa tree, 'Alba' silk tree

**Family:** *Fabaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 6B through 9B (Figure 2)

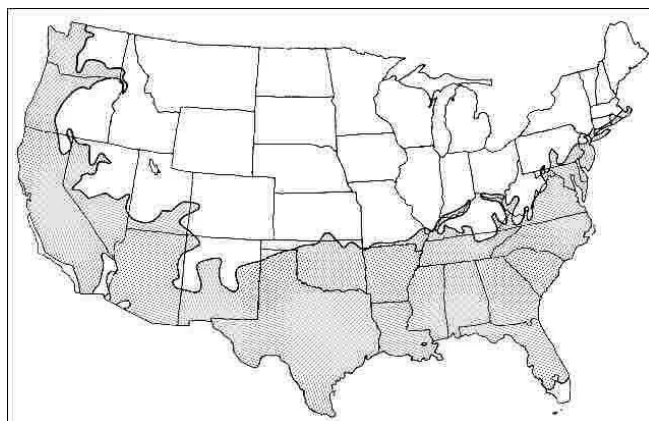


Figure. Range

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** invasive and not recommended (North, Central, South)

**Uses:** reclamation; deck or patio; specimen

## Description

**Height:** 15 to 25 feet

**Spread:** 25 to 35 feet

**Crown uniformity:** irregular

**Crown shape:** vase, spreading

**Crown density:** open

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** fine

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Figure 3)

**Leaf type:** bipinnately compound, odd-pinnately compound

**Leaf margin:** entire, ciliate

**Leaf shape:** oblong, lanceolate

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

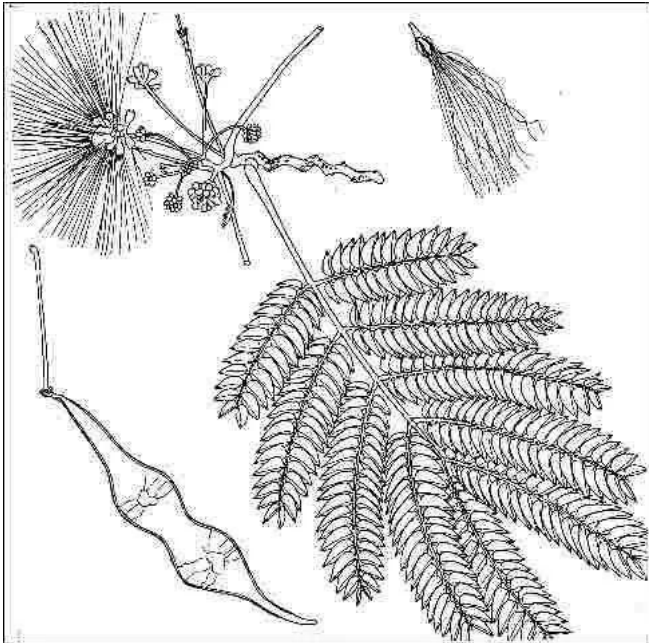


Figure 3. Foliage

## Flower

**Flower color:** white/cream/gray

**Flower characteristics:** showy

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** elongated

**Fruit length:** 3 to 6 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; showy; fruit/leaves a litter problem

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches droop; not showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needed for strong structure

**Breakage:** susceptible to breakage

**Current year twig color:** gray

**Current year twig thickness:** very thick

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

## Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun

**Soil tolerances:** sand; loam; clay; acidic; slightly alkaline; well-drained; occasionally wet

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

## Other

**Roots:** can form large surface roots

**Winter interest:** no

**Outstanding tree:** no

**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** resistant

**Pest resistance:** sensitive to pests/diseases

## Use and Management

Growing best in full sun locations, mimosa is not particular as to soil type but has low salt-tolerance. Grows well in acidic or alkaline soil. Mimosa tolerates drought conditions well but has a deeper green color and more lush appearance when given adequate moisture. The blooms, leaves, and especially the long seed pods can

create a litter problem. Also, the wood is brittle and has a tendency to break during storms, although usually the wood is not heavy enough to cause damage. Typically, most of the root system grows from only two or three large-diameter roots originating at the base of the trunk. These can raise walks and patios as they grow in diameter and makes for poor transplanting success as the tree grows larger.

Unfortunately, mimosa (vascular) wilt is becoming a very widespread problem in many areas of the country and has killed many roadside trees. Despite its picturesque growth habit and its beauty when in bloom, some cities have passed ordinances outlawing further planting of this species due to its weed potential and wilt disease problem.

Several other cultivars exist: 'Rosea' ('Ernest Wilson') has bright pink flowers, is hardier than the species, and is 10 to 15 feet in height; 'Rubra' has deep pink flowers. 'Charlotte', 'Tyron', and 'Union' are reportedly wilt

resistant and might be coming into production in selected nurseries in some areas. None are recommended for use in Florida because the species is invasive.

Mimosa readily germinates from its abundant seeds but the wilt resistant trees must be increased by root cuttings.

## Pests

Problems include cottony cushion scale, mites, and mimosa webworm.

## Diseases

Mimosa (vascular) wilt is quite a problem and is fatal. It can spread to adjacent mimosas by root grafts.

## Literature Cited

Fox, A.M., D.R. Gordon, J.A. Dusky, L. Tyson, and R.K. Stocker. 2008. IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas: Status Assessment. [http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/pdfs/status\\_assessment.pdf](http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/pdfs/status_assessment.pdf) (November 16, 2012)

<sup>1</sup>This document is ENH228, one of a series of the Department of Environmental Horticulture, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date November 1993. Revised February 2013 and November 2023. Visit the Ask IFAS website at <https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu> for the currently supported version of this publication. © 2026 UF/IFAS. This publication is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/). To learn more about creating and maintaining attractive landscapes that protect Florida's water and natural resources, visit [fl.ifas.ufl.edu/](https://fl.ifas.ufl.edu/).

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