

## *Acacia ferruginea*

**Botanical Name:** *Acacia ferruginea*

**Common Name:** Safed khair

### Morphological Characteristics

*Acacia ferruginea* is normally a smallish, drought-resistant, deciduous tree, not more than 12 m tall and 50 cm DBH. Commonly attaining 35 cm DBH with a bole rarely straight for more than 2-3 m. Branches slender, armed with conical prickles; spine persist on bole until it reaches about 15 cm DBH. Twigs are zigzag at nodes, wiry, glabrous, green or reddish. Primary roots are long, thin, tapering, wiry, and yellow to brown. Leaves alternate; prickles twin, infra-stipular, slightly curved. Common petiole 7-15 cm long; pinnae 4-6 pairs; leaflets 15-30 pairs, grey to glaucous (almost white when dry), linear, 0.6-1.25 cm long. Flowers pale yellow in numerous lax axillary spikes about 14 cm long, which are often paniced at the end of the branches. Corolla white, glabrous, 2-3 times as long as the calyx. Pods glabrous, 7-18 x 2-2.5 cm, contain a dry sweetish pulp, dark brown and pinnately dehiscent, 3-7 seeded. Seeds 0.5-0.7 x 0.35-0.5 cm, flat ovate, oblong, distinctly stalked, and this is a diagnostic feature, greenish to brown.



### Growing season and Type

- 1) In India, flowers appear from March to May when the tree foliage is very scanty; pods ripen from November to February.



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1. Flower of *Acacia ferruginea*
2. Leaf of *Acacia ferruginea*
3. Tree of *Acacia ferruginea*

Source: <http://indiabiodiversity.org/species/show/228560/?max=8&offset=0&classification=265799&taxon=34265&view=grid>