

## *Acacia nilotica*

**Botanical name:** *Acacia nilotica*

**Common name:** Babool

### **Morphological characters:**

*Acacia nilotica* is a tree 5–20 m high with a dense spheric crown, stems and branches usually dark to black coloured, fissured bark, grey-pinkish slash, exuding a reddish low quality gum. The tree has thin, straight, light, grey spines in axillary pairs, usually in 3 to 12 pairs, 5 to 7.5 cm (3 in) long in young trees, mature trees commonly without thorns. The leaves are bipinnate, with 3–6 pairs of pinnulae and 10–30 pairs of leaflets each, tomentose, rachis with a gland at the bottom of the last pair of pinnulae.



### **Growing season and type:**

1. Tolerates a wide range of soil types, thriving in alluvial and heavy clay soils with pH 5.0–9.0.
2. Grows from 0–1,340 m altitude, with an annual mean temperature of 18–28°C. Tolerates extremes of temperature (-1–50°C) when established, but is frost sensitive as a seedling.
3. Flower initiation is triggered by declining temperature and possibly by declining soil moisture (generally throughout autumn) green pods form during the dry season and ripen into the late dry/early wet season.
4. The flowers are sweetly scented and appear near the beginning of the rainy season. Flowering is prolific, and can occur a number of times in a season.
5. This species will tolerate only light frost, but is extremely resistant to drought and heat. It is also tolerant of saline soil.



1



2



3

1) Flower image of *Acacia nilotica*

2) Leaf image of *Acacia nilotica*

3) Tree image of *Acacia nilotica*

source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/39456218@N00/11494528394>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Acacia\\_species\\_known\\_to\\_contain\\_pschoactive\\_alkaloids](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Acacia_species_known_to_contain_pschoactive_alkaloids)