

## *Bombax ceiba*

**Botanical Name:** *Bombax ceiba*

**Common Name:** Simal

### **Morphological Characters:**

A Large tree, up to 40 m height by 2 m in diameter. The Stem is buttresses at the base. Silk cotton tree is a type of native cotton tree with large red flowers. The genus name Salmalia is derived from the sanskrit name shaalmali. Silk cotton trees comprise eight species in the genus Bombax, native to India, tropical southern Asia, northern Australia and tropical Africa. Semul trees bear beautiful red-colored flowers during January to March. The phenomenon paints the whole landscape in an enchanting red hue. The fruit, the size of a ping-pong ball, on maturity appears during March and April. These are full of cotton-like fibrous stuff.



### **Gorwing Season and Type:**

1. Light demander and drought resistance.
2. Grows well in deep soil than on sandy alluvial soil
3. Tolerate seasonal flooding but growth is stunted in badly drained soil.
4. The seedlings may be burnt back annually, but will sprout from the base, until eventually a stem is formed. This dieback and sprouting of seedlings also occurs under poor soil conditions and may be repeated for several years before a stem develops.
5. Coppices well and produce abundant root suckers.



1



2



3

1) Flower image of *Bombax ceiba*

2) Fruit image of *Bombax ceiba*

3) Leaf image of *Bombax ceiba*

source: <http://www.flowersofindia.net/catalog/slides/Silk%20Cotton%20Tree.html>