

Albizia lebbbeck

Botanical name: *Albizia lebbbeck*

Common name: Koko, Indian siris

Morphological characters:

Albizia lebbbeck is a fast-growing, medium-sized deciduous tree with a spreading umbrella-shaped crown of thin foliage and smoothish, finely fissured, grayish-brown bark. Depending on site conditions, annual height growth ranges from 0.5 to 2.0 m; on good sites, individual trees attain an average maximum height of 18 to 25 m and 50 to 80 cm d.b.h. The species grows well from sea level to 1500 m on sites receiving between 500 and 2500 mm annual rainfall and tolerates both light frosts and drought. While it grows poorly on heavy clay soils, it tolerates saline, sodic, and lateritic sites. The tree grows best on moist, well-drained soils. The fragrant, cream-colored flowers develop on lateral stalks in rounded clusters 5 to 7.5 cm across the many threadlike, spreading, whitish-to-yellow stamens tipped with light green, borne at the ends of lateral stalks 4 to 10 cm long. The fruits, flattened pods 10 to 20 cm long and 2.5 to 3.8 cm broad, are produced in large numbers and each contains several seeds.



Growing season and type:

1. Flowers usually appear with new leaves over an extended period beginning at the end of the dry season; in the Caribbean region this season occurs between April and September.
2. Flowering can occur on trees as young as 10 months.
3. It is a tree growing to a height of 18–30 m tall with a trunk 50 cm to 1 m in diameter. The leaves are bipinnate, 7.5–15 cm long, with one to four pairs of pinnae, each pinna with 6–18 l



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2



3

1. Flower of *Albizia lebbbeck*
2. Leaves of *Albizia lebbbeck*
3. *Albizia lebbbeck* tree