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The leaf is bipinnately compound having a large main leaf stem supporting 10-25 subsidiary stems, each of which has 40-60 small leaflets. This gives the tree a very fernlike appearance.

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Albizia julibrissin

Mimosa

Silk Tree

Albizia julibrissin

Mimosa

Silk Tree



The flowers are often called pink powderpuffs. In mid summer they bloom one to two inches long and are made up of many threadlike pink stamens. As in all legumes the fruit is a long (5-8 inches) pod containing 8-12 seeds.

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With a short trunk, or even several trunks, the Mimosa has a wide flat crown of spreading branches. The bark is light brown and especially smooth on young branches. On older trunks it gets mottled.

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Albizia julibrissin

Mimosa

Silk Tree

Albizia julibrissin

Mimosa

Silk Tree

The common name was given to this tree because of the similarity between its flowers and those of the "sensitive-plant" (genus *Mimosa*). The flowers of the Silk Tree fold up at night while those of the sensitive-plant fold up when touched.

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