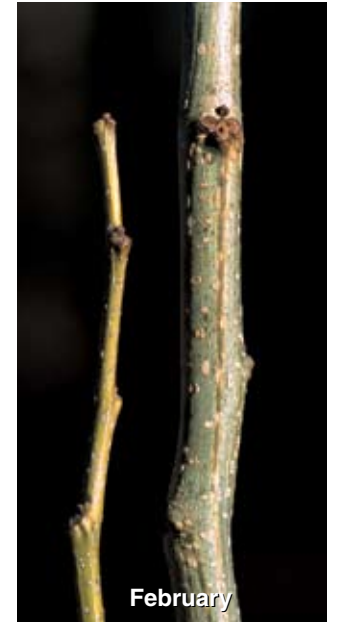


Silktree, Mimosa

TREES



T. Bohner



***Albizia julibrissin* Durazz. ALJU**

Synonym: silky acacia

Plant. Deciduous leguminous tree 10 to 50 feet (3 to 15 m) in height with single or multiple boles, smooth light-brown bark, feathery leaves, and showy pink blossoms that continually yield dangling flat pods during summer. Pods persistent during winter.

Stem. Twigs slender to stout, lime green turning shiny grayish brown with light dots (lenticels). No terminal bud. Bark glossy, thin, light brown turning gray with raised corky dots and dashes.

Leaves. Alternate, bipinnately compound 6 to 20 inches (15 to 50 cm) long with 8 to 24 pairs of branches and 20 to 60 leaflets per branch, feathery and fernlike. Leaflets asymmetric, 0.4 to 0.6 inch (1 to 1.5 cm) long, dark green, with midvein nearer and running parallel to one margin. Margins entire.

Flowers. May to July (and sporadically to November). Terminal clusters at the base of the current year's twigs, each with 15 to 25 sessile flowers 1.4 to 2 inches (3.5 to 5 cm) long. Pom-pom like with numerous filaments, bright-pink feathery tufts with white bases. Fragrant.

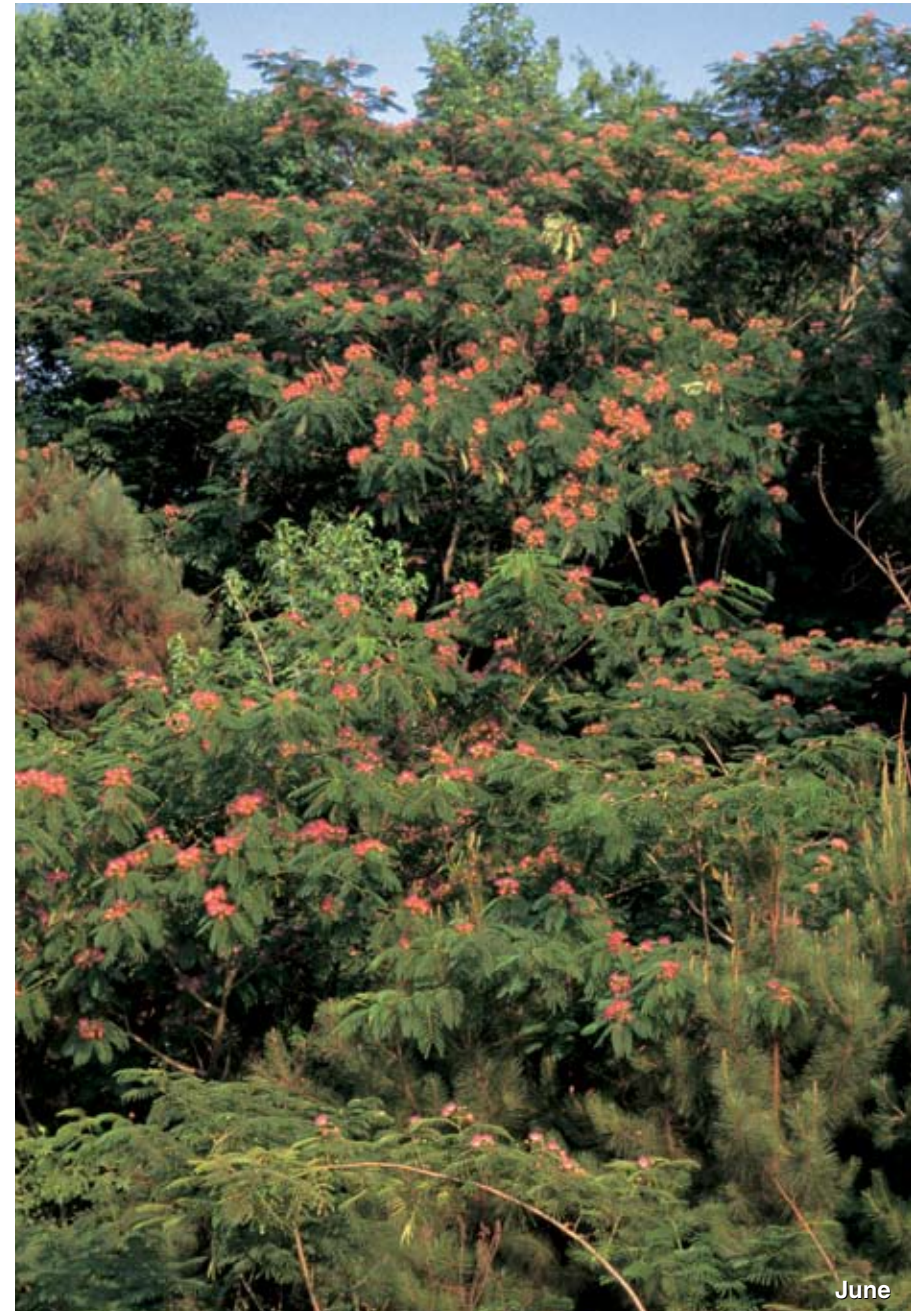
Fruits and seeds. June to February. Legume pods in clusters, flat with bulging seeds, each pod 3 to 7 inches (8 to 18 cm) long, splitting in winter along the edges to release 5 to 10 oval seeds. Initially light green turning dark brown in fall and whitish tan in winter.

Ecology. Occurs on dry-to-wet sites and spreads along stream banks, preferring open conditions but also persisting in shade. Seldom found above 3,000 feet (900 m). Forms colonies from root sprouts and spreads by abundant animal- and water-dispersed seeds. Seeds remain viable for many years. Nitrogen fixer.

Resembles honeylocust, *Gleditsia triacanthos* L., which has longer leaflets—1 inch (2.5 cm) long. Seedlings resemble partridge pea, *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (Michx.) Greene, an annual plant with once pinnately compound leaves.

History and use. A traditional ornamental introduced from Asia in 1745. Potential use for forage and biofuel.

States with suspected infestations are shown in gray.

**Silktree, Mimosa****0345**

June