

## Mimosa Tree (*Albizia julibrissin*)

The Mimosa Tree is a fast-growing, small to medium sized, deciduous tree that typically grows in a vase shape to 20-40' tall with a spreading, often umbrella-like crown. It is native to Asia (Iran to Japan). It has been widely planted in the U. S. as an ornamental tree. In the wild, it is typically seen growing in vacant lots, waste areas, clearings, wood margins, fields and along roads. It can be quite invasive in watersheds where water currents carry and distribute the seeds downstream.

The Mimosa Tree is noted for its bipinnate compound dark green leaves. The leaves have a fern-like appearance. Fluffy, pink, powder puff flowerheads cover the tree with a long summer bloom. Flowers are fragrant and attractive to bees. Flowers give way to flat bean-like seed pods which persist into winter. Sensitive leaflets close up when touched and at night. Leaflets fall to the ground after frost, producing no fall color.

This tree will not be planted by any urban forester in Indiana, because it is on Indiana's Exotic Invasive species list. Mimosa was originally introduced to America as food for the silk worm, which is why its other common name is the Silk tree.