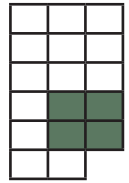


# ***Albizia grandibracteata***

Fabaceae



## **Indigenous**

**Eng:** *Large-leaved albizia*

**Gm:** *Sat, Serri*

**Or:** *Shawo, Kofale, Alele, Halele, Emela, Elele*

## **Ecology**

Grows in rain forest and riverine forest. Prefers Moist and Wet Kolla and Weyna Dega agroclimatic zones in Ilubabor, Kefa, Wolega, Shoa, and Sidamo regions, 1,200–1,700 m.

## **Uses**

Firewood, farm tools, medicine (infusion from the roots), bee forage, ornamental, mulch, nitrogen fixation, soap (bark).

## **Description**

A medium-sized deciduous tree with a straight trunk to 20 m and a flattened or layered crown. BARK: Fairly smooth, pale grey-brown. LEAVES: Compound, on a stalk to 9 cm with only 2–3 pairs of pinnae and 3–6 pairs of leaflets, pink-red when young. The smallest leaflets at the base, the longest at the tip reach 7 cm, rather curved and pointed. At the base of young leaves are rounded pink-green leafy stipules, to 2 cm long. FLOWERS: In colourful hemispherical heads, mostly pink with dark red anthers seen well beyond the petals. FRUIT: Flat, pale brown pods, narrow, to 15 cm with a small pointed tip. Dense papery bunches can be seen on bare trees, 5–8 seeds are set free when the pods split open.

## **Propagation**

Seedlings, wildings.

## **Seed**

**Treatment:** Not necessary for fresh seed, soaking in hot or cold water may enhance germination of stored seed.

**Storage:** Can be stored if insect attack is prevented.

## **Management**

Fast growing on well-watered forest soils, produces root suckers from exposed surface roots.

## **Remarks**

A striking tree when in flower. The pale wood, although easily worked, is not very durable and is attacked by insects. In other properties it is similar to *A. gummifera*. The name “grandibracteata” refers to the “large bracts” of the young leaves.

