Albizia grandibracteata

Indigenous

**Common names:**
- **English:** Large-leaved albizia
- **Kwamba:** Bulera, idada, madada
- **Luganda:** Mulongo, nongo
- **Luo:** Awak, owak
- **A:** Awok
- **Lusoga:** Mulongo, nongo
- **Rukiga:** Mushebye
- **Runyoro:** Mulongo, murongo, nongo
- **Rutoro:** Mulongo, nongo.

**Ecology:**
A tree of Central and East Africa and the Sudan, found in upland rain forest, especially in gallery riverine forests. In Uganda it is a vigorous colonizer in woodlands, gallery and mixed forests and on forest edges. It prefers moist and wet sites.

**Uses:**
Firewood, charcoal, timber (for furniture, joinery and construction), farm tools, medicine (roots), bee forage, ornamental, mulch, nitrogen fixation.

**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. **Young branchlets densely hairy.** **LEAVES:** bipinnate, on a stalk to 9 cm with only 2-3 pairs pinnae and 3-6 pairs leaflets, pink-red when young. The **smallest leaflets at the base, terminal leaflets largest** and reach 7 cm, rather curved and **tip 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, and root suckers.

**Seed:**
Collect in pods just before pods split open. Thresh pods and separate seeds. Seeds susceptible to attack by insects, soak in water overnight.

**treatment:**

**storage:**
Store in sealed containers in a cool place. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

**Management:**
Coppicing, pollarding. Fast growing on well-watered forest soils, produce many suckers from 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", leafy growths at the base of young leaves.