

# Albizia lophantha

*Mimosoideae*

Australia

*Eng: Spiked acacia, Crested wattle*

**Ecology:** This is an exotic tree from western Australia but grows as an ornamental in Asmara (2,300 m).

**Uses:** Firewood, fodder (leaves), bee forage, **soil conservation, soil improvement**, nitrogen fixation, **ornamental**, shade.

**Description:** A many-branched shrub or small graceful tree 4-15 m, with a straight trunk and large **spreading crown**, semi-deciduous. LEAVES: Compound, the leaf stalk to 20 cm with 6-12 pairs of pinnae and many leaflets. Each **leaflet is narrow and pointed about 1 cm long**, silky hairy below. **Young leaves have brown hairs**. FLOWERS: Differ from those of all other Albizia; small and green-yellow on 1-3 **short, dense spikes, to 8 cm**, beside leaves. Many conspicuous yellow anther filaments, over 1 cm long. FRUIT: A narrow **pod to 11 cm long**, the **edges thick**, the **tip with a distinct blunt point**. The pod is swollen over the **8-11 seeds** inside.

**Propagation:** Seedlings.

**Seed:**

**treatment:** Immerse in hot water, soak 24 hours.

**storage:**

**Management:** A fast-growing but short-lived tree. Pruning, lopping.

**Remarks:** It makes poor fuel but is a useful tree for reclaiming land because it is fast growing, relatively drought resistant and tolerates infertile and seasonally waterlogged soils. It may form dense stands along river banks, as in the Western Cape, South Africa. Having abundant seeds, it may spread easily on light soil and become an undesirable weed.

