

# Albizia amara

*Mimosoideae*

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Eng:** bitter albizia; **Fiome:** kakwol; Gogo: muhogolo; **Goro:** moitsoi, tsori; **Lugu:** mkengehovu; **Mwera:** mtanga; **Nyam:** mpogolo, mtangala; Nyir: mufoghoo; **Rangi:** msisiviri; **Suku:** mpogolo; **Zinza:** mkarasaritu.
- Ecology:** Widespread in Africa, 400-1,900 m, in wooded grassland thickets and Commiphora scrub. In Tanzania it is common in Dodoma, Shinyanga and Singida.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, tools, medicine (bark, leaves, roots), fodder (leaves), ornamental, mulch, nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, resin.
- Description:** A deciduous tree to 15 m, often smaller, with spreading crown, fairly dense canopy, trunk often crooked, usually single stemmed. **BARK:** dark brown, cracked. **LEAVES:** **bright pale green** compound leaf with numerous small leaflets with **feathery** appearance. **Branchlets and leaves have distinctive soft, golden hairs.** **FLOWERS:** numerous small **cream-pink heads**, half spherical, about 2.5 cm across **FRUIT:** **large pods, 20 cm long, 3 cm wide**, thin, bulging over few seeds, **purple when young, later brown and papery.**
- Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 10,000-13,000.
- treatment:** Immerse in hot water, allow to cool and soak for 12 hours.
- storage:** seeds can be stored for a long period if kept dry and insect free.
- Management:** Coppicing, lopping, pollarding.
- Remarks:** Can be planted in urban areas as ornamental and avenue tree. Bark and roots contain saponin so can be used as a soap for washing clothes. The wood, although hard, rots easily.

