

## Mimosa or Silktree

### *Albizia julibrissin*



Mimosa tree



Mimosa leaves



Mimosa flowers & leaves

**Plant:** Small tree, 3–12 m (10–40 ft), with single or multiple stems. Sprouts from rootcollar.

**Stem:** Glossy bark is thin, light brown. Twigs slender to stout, brown with light dots (*lenticels*). No terminal bud.

**Leaves:** Feathery and fern-like, deciduous, alternate, *bipinnately compound*, 15–50 cm (6–20 in) long with 8–24 paired branches and 20–60 leaflets per branch. Leaflets are not symmetrical (midrib is nearer one margin and runs parallel with it).

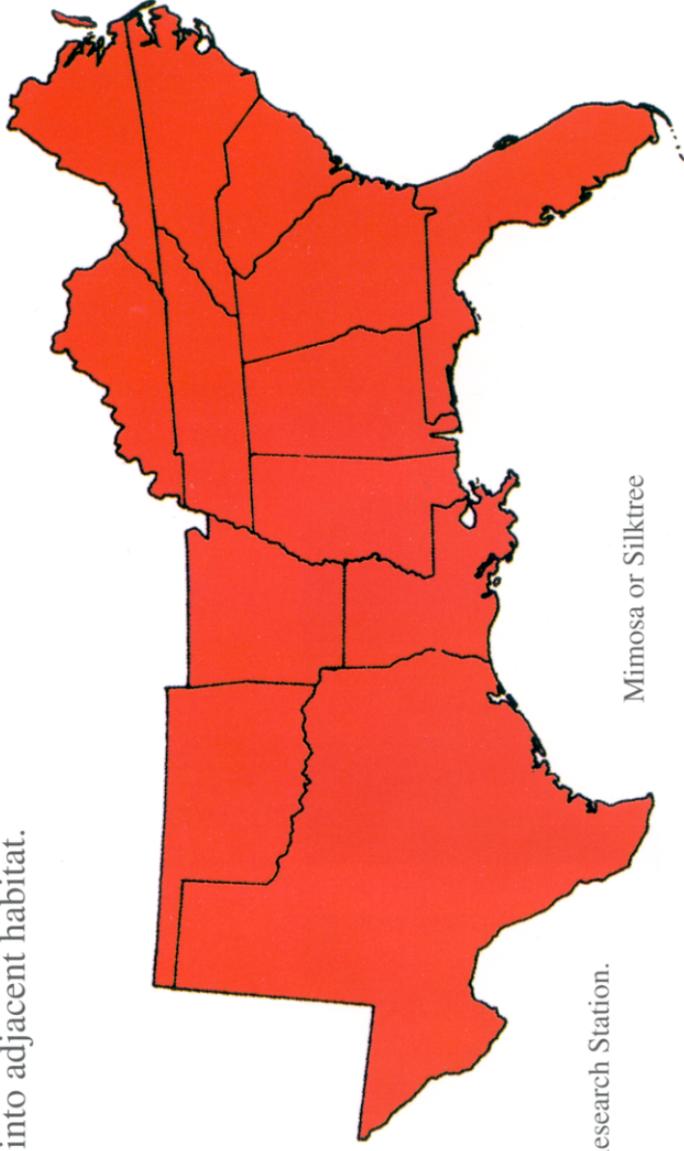
**Flowers:** May–November. Showy bright pink with white, feathery tufts, 3.5–4 cm (1.5–2 in) long, in terminal clusters at the base of the current year's twigs. Composed of 15–25 sessile flowers with numerous filaments. Strong, sweet fragrance.

**Fruit and Seeds:** July–January. Leguminous pod, 8–18 cm (3–7 in) long, flat with bulging seeds, in large clusters, initially light green, turning brown in winter, pods splitting along the edges to release 5–10 oval seeds.

**Range:** Exotic, introduced in 1745. Found throughout the South and much of the United States.

**Ecology:** Aggressive invader, spreading rapidly along rights-of-way, and into adjacent habitat.

Occurs on dry to wet sites but prefers open conditions (although it persists in shade). Spreads by root suckers and abundant seeds, viable up to 50 years. Excludes native plants and colonizes with other exotic plants.



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(Added photo by Ted Bodner)

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