

# WOMAN'S TONGUE TREE

East Indian Walnut, Siris Tree, Kokko, Lebbeck

*Albizia lebbek*

Fabaceae

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## ECHO® PLANT INFORMATION SHEET

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### Description

A fast growing nitrogen-fixing deciduous tree, recommended for reforestation and firewood plantations. *Albizia lebbek* reaches an average height of 6-12 m but may reach 25-30 m with a dense shade-producing crown. Handles coppicing well. Bark smooth, light white or greenish gray. The pods are flat, reddish brown, with seeds that rattle in the breeze. This tree is native to tropical Africa, Asia and northern Australia.

### Uses

*Albizia lebbek* wood is termite-resistant and can be used for furniture, veneer, turnery, general construction, carts, carving, firewood, and charcoal. The tree can be planted for shade, erosion control and as an ornamental. In India it is commonly found as a cover crop in tea and coffee plantations. Leaves can be used as green manure. It is a suitable fodder crop for domestic and wild animals. In addition, the bark contains saponin used in soap making and tannin used for tanning leather and treating fishnets. In the Sudan, goats eat fallen leaves and flowers.

### Common Names

- French
  - woman's tongue tree

### Cultivation

The tree will tolerate alkaline soil, drought, light frost and salt spray. Move seedlings to partial shade, watering and spraying as needed. Harden off for 2-3 months. Seedlings can be planted when 1 m (3 ft) high at the beginning of the rainy season. Shoots will sprout from the trunk or stump. • Elevation: 0-1600m • Germination : Immerse seed in boiling water, cool; soak for 24 hours

### Pests and Diseases

Collect seeds when they're fully dry and rattle when shaken.