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## Flowering Trees



*Albizzia lebbek* Benth. (Hindi: *Siris*) of Leguminosae is a large deciduous tree with greyish bark and compound leaves. Flowers are greenish-yellow in head inflorescences. Fruit pods are yellowish-brown, flat and carry 6-10 seeds (Inset shows the entire crown of the tree covered with previous season's dry pods).

The tender branchlets and leaves are used as fodder. The heartwood is dark brown, tough and durable and is used in making cart wheels and agricultural implements. The bark and seeds are astringent and are given for treating piles and diarrhoea. The root bark in powder form is used to strengthen gums.