

The red cotton tree is a medium- to large-sized tropical tree that usually grows to an average of 20-25 meters, with old trees up to 60 meters in wet tropical weather. < 0.870 > Its leaves are deciduous in winter. < 0.396 > It produces a capsule which, when ripe, contains white fibres, like cotton, which has been used as a substitute for cotton. < 0.158 > Crimson red flowers with five petals appear in the spring before the new foliage and are one reason that the tree is widely planted. < 0.303 > It has a straight tall trunk buttressed at base that bears conical spines to deter animal attacks. < 0.701 >