**Albizia lebbeck**

**Scientific classification:**

**Kingdom :** Plantae

**Division :** Tracheophyta

**Class :** Magnoliopsida

**Order :** Fabales

**Family :** Mimosaceae

**Genus :** *Albizia*

**Species :** *Albizia* *lebbeck*

**Scientific Name :** *Albizia* *lebbeck* (L.) Benth.

**Common Names:**

* **English** : lebbeck, lebbek tree, flea tree, frywood, koko and woman's tongue tree.
* **Hindi**: Saras (सरस)
* **Kannada**: ಸಿರೀಸ( sirisa)
* **Marathi**: शिरस (shiras), शिरीष (shirish)

**Description:**

1. **Habit and Habitat:** Terrestrial, grows at an altitude of 750 m above the sea level6 and in fertile and semi-fertile soil. Height up to 9-10mts. Perennial, which can range from dark green to greyish green in colour.
2. **Distribution:** it is native to Indomalaya, New Guinea and Northern Australia and widely cultivated and naturalised in other tropical and subtropical regions
3. **Morphology:**
   * + **Leaf:** Bipinnate,7.5-15cms long, with 1-4 pairs of pinnae, each pinna with 6-18 leaflets.
     + **Inflorescence:** Inflorescence is Head**s**
     + **Flower**: Flowers mimosa-like, in showy, rounded clusters near stem tips, 5-6 cm across, cream or yellowish-white.White, fragrant, heads umbellate, from the upper leaf axils, solitary or fasciculate.  
       Filaments exserted, connate below into a short tube.Flowers bisexual,
     + **Androecium:** each flower with numerous long stamens**.**
     + **Gynoecium:** ovary subsessile, glabrous, style 2.5 cm, filiform; stigma minute.
     + **Fruit:**.Pods 10 - 25 cm long, 3 - 5 cm broad, thin, flat, straight, straw - coloured when old, glabrous and shining.
     + **Seeds** : 4 - 12, spherical or slightly reniform, smooth, glabrous, yellowish brown.
     + **Flowering and Fruiting time** : July - Oct ; Oct - Mar
4. **Propagation:** Through seeds.
5. **Importance:**

* The bark and seeds are used as astringent.
* The flowers are considered cooling and are externally applied in boils, eruptions, etc.
* The leaves, seeds etc. are used in opthalmia.
* The timber is valued for a variety of purposes.

1. **Location**: in front of new building,enterance gate garden,opp to dining hall (beside library).