

Apple-Ring Acacia, *Ana Tree*, *harraz*

The Ana Tree, formerly known as *Acacia albida*, and in Arabic as *harraz*, is native to Africa and introduced into the Middle East, India and Pakistan. It is a large, very thorny, deciduous tree reaching 30 metres in height in its native habitats on floodplains and dry watercourses. A fast-growing tree with a thick trunk and zigzag branching habit, the pale grey-green leaves are borne on whitish-grey, smooth stems and branches when young, which become grey and rough when older. The straight, whitish thorns are up to 40 mm long. The bark is grey, and fissured when old. Scented, pale cream-coloured flowers in long spikes occur from March to September, and are followed by large, unusually twisted, fruit pods, bright orange in colour. *F. albida* has a deep tap root, making it very drought-resistant, and it will grow in waterlogged soils and withstand occasional frost. For propagation, its seeds should first be treated with boiling water overnight before sowing. Young plants develop long tap roots and should be planted in the ground quickly. The tree is particularly useful in nitrogen fixation and erosion control, and is highly valued in agroforestry. It also has medicinal properties in the treatment of infections. Susceptible to mealybugs and scale, it can be treated with systemic insecticides. Large areas of the Sahara in Niger have been re-afforested with the Ana Tree, with great success. With its white twigs and thorns, it is an interesting specimen tree in a park or large garden with only low maintenance requirements.



GENERAL

Origin	: tropical
Humidity	: very arid, semi-arid, semi-humid
Propagation	: direct sowing
Maintenance	: low

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: vulnerable
Dessication	: resistant
Stagnant water	: resistant
Irrigation	: none
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (1800 ppm)
Hardiness	: 0°C

SHAPE

Type	: tree
Height	: 15 m-25 m
Spread	: 10 m-14 m
Foliage	: deciduous

FLOWER

Colour	: yellow
Size	: 10 cm
Period	: May - June
Smell	: flower

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: pod
Fruit size	: 30 cm