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## Mimosa, Umbrella Tree

*Albizia julibrissin*

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### **Identification:**

Small to medium sized tree up to 40 feet tall. Leaves are bi-pinnately compound and slowly close up when touched. The large, showy flowers are pink to red and have a 'fluffy' appearance. Fruit is a seed pod resembling a pea about 2 inches in length. The light brown bark is smooth or nearly smooth.

**Origin:** Asia

### **Habitat:**

Hardy in a wide range of soil conditions, mimosa grows well in full to part sun at low to middle elevations. Not shade tolerant or extremely cold tolerant. Once planted as an ornamental, it is often observed in abandoned lots, roadsides, and fields in urban settings. Also grows well in riparian areas and forest edges.

### **Ecological Threat:**

Mimosa threatens early successional and riparian habitats. It grows quickly in these open areas and produces immense crops of highly viable seed annually. It has almost no wildlife or erosion control value, and the wood is weak and light. Mimosa invades natural areas and takes up space and nutrients essential to the survival of native vegetation that produces food and cover for wildlife. Hence its name, it also produces a large shaded area, robbing early successional native herbaceous plant growth of sunlight necessary for their survival.



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### **Native alternatives:**

Fringetree  
(*Chionanthus virginicus*)  
Black locust  
(*Robinia pseudoacacia*)  
Eastern redbud  
(*Cercis canadensis*)

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