

# Silk Tree

## *Albizia julibrissin*

### Leaf Shape

There are many different leaf shapes.



A *simple* leaf has a single blade.



A *compound* leaf has blades divided into two or more leaflets.



Twice divided leaves, like the leaves of the silk tree, are called *bipinnately compound*.

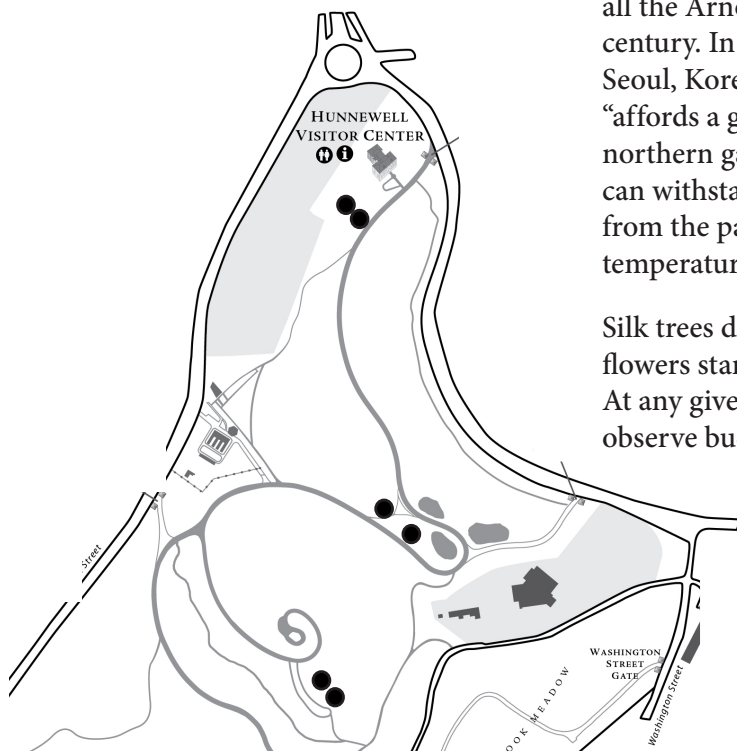


Ernest Henry Wilson (1876-1930) was the furthest-traveled of all the Arnold Arboretum's plant explorers of the early twentieth century. In 1918, Wilson collected seeds of *Albizia julibrissin* in Seoul, Korea. "The origin of the plant in the Arboretum," he said, "affords a good illustration of the importance of obtaining for northern gardens types, which grow in the coolest regions they can withstand." In other words, it is important to collect plants from the parts of their natural ranges where the coldest winter temperatures are similar to those of Boston.

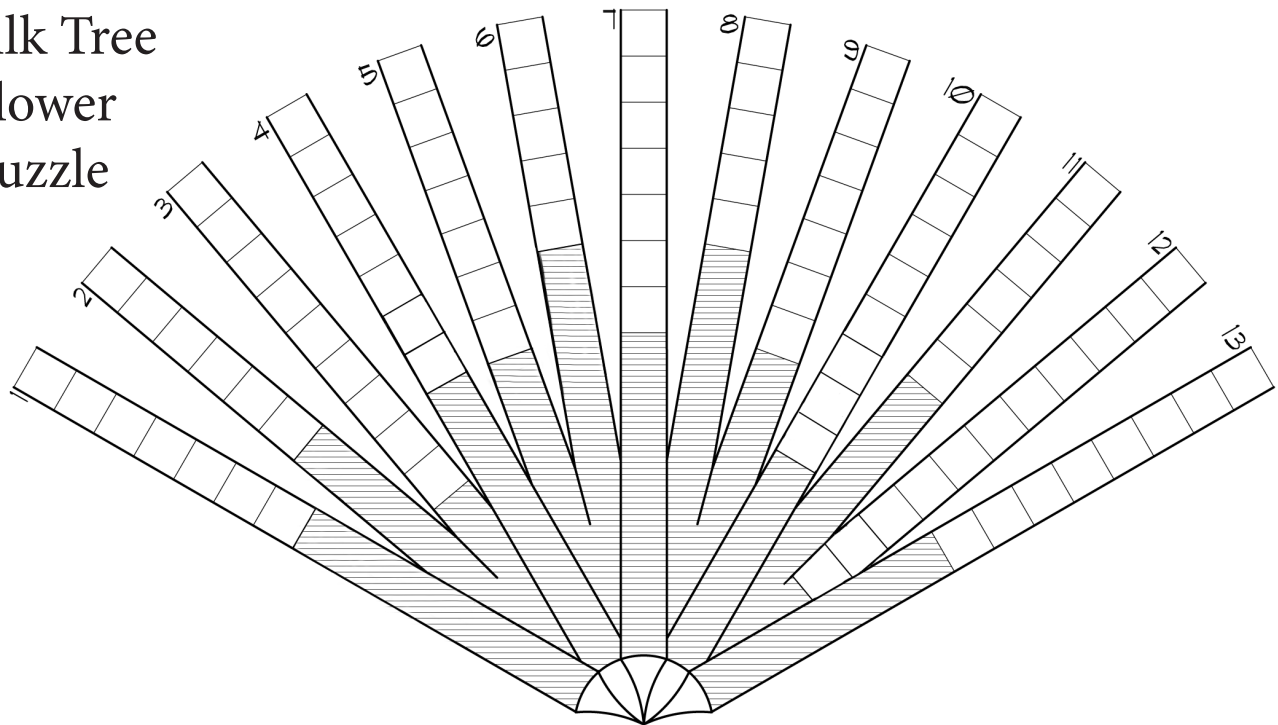
Silk trees display stunning pink and white, powder puff-like flowers starting in early July and often continuing into September. At any given time during its long blooming period, you may observe buds, flowers, and spent blossoms on the same tree.

Can you find all six specimens of *Albizia* in the Arboretum landscape?

Among these, can you find the cultivar *A. julibrissin* 'Ernest Wilson'?



# Silk Tree Flower Puzzle



*Albizia julibrissin*, commonly called silk tree or mimosa, is a small tree that produces stunning pink, fan-shaped flowers from July until September.

Use the first letter of each word to spell  
the botanical term for a flower or a group of flowers:

— — — — —  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

1. They are often pollinators of flowers
2. This will attract animals to the plant
3. A description of the *Albizia* flower
4. A compound leaf has more than one of these
5. The famous landscape designer of the Arnold Arboretum
6. The anchor of the plant that absorbs water and nutrients
7. China's hemisphere
8. A small woody plant or bush
9. Any tree that produces cones
10. A tree that keeps its color all year
11. Belonging to a certain place
12. The green pigment that is vital for photosynthesis
13. A famous plant explorer

## Word List:

nectar

shrub

chlorophyll

E.H. Wilson

native

Olmsted

conifer

eastern

insects

leaflet

evergreen

roots

fan-shaped



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