



Calliandra houstoniana var. *calothyrsus*

PEA FAMILY

Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES

English: calliandra, red calliandra
Indonesia: kaliandra, kaliandra merah
Malaysia: kaliandra
Vietnam: muồng hoa pháo

DESCRIPTION

Evergreen, thornless, often multi-stemmed leguminous shrub or small tree [5–6 (–12 m) tall] with a trunk diameter of 20 (–30) cm.

Bark: White to red-brown and hairless, sometimes finely hairy.

Leaves: Dark green, twice-divided (10–19 cm long) with 6–20 pairs of leaflet branchlets, each with 19–60 pairs of linear, somewhat elongated and pointed leaflets (5–8 mm long and 1 mm wide).

Flowers: Red in terminal clusters up to 30 cm long with numerous long shiny red stamens, showy.

Fruits: Pods (several-seeded dry fruits that split open at maturity), green turning brown as they mature, straight, flattened (8–13 cm long and 1–1.6 cm wide) with thickened and raised margins splitting open, with each half curling back, held erect on stem.

ORIGIN

Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

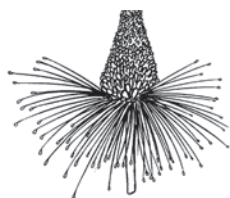
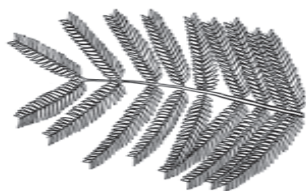
Fuelwood, building materials, fodder, ornament, soil conservation, nitrogen fixation and green manure.

INVADES

Roadsides, disturbed land, urban open space, plantation edges/gaps, forest edges/gaps, riparian vegetation and lowlands.

IMPACTS

It has the ability to form dense thickets, displacing native species, especially in riparian areas. It is an aggressive colonizer of disturbed habitats, is highly adaptable, and able to grow under a wide variety of soil and environmental conditions (Macqueen, 1992; Palmer *et al.*, 1994). It has the potential to suppress other plants very quickly when competing for water and nutrients (CONABIO, 2014). In Kabale, Uganda, some farmers claimed that it competed with food crops, impacted negatively on soil nutrients and harboured pest birds. Calliandra also fixes nitrogen and as a result impacts on soil nutrient cycling.



Calliandra houstoniana (Mill.) Standl. var. *calothyrsus* (Meisn.) Barneby

