

Acacia nilotica Linn.

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae

Genus: *Acacia*

Species: *A. nilotica*



Popular names: *Acacia nilotica* Linn.

Common Name: Babul, kikar

Nature: Tree

Flowering time: September to December

Fruiting time: December to June

Plant distribution: It is native from Egypt south to Mozambique and Natal through to Pakistan, India and Burma. It has become widely naturalized outside its native range including Zanzibar, and Australia.

Gardening notes:

1. **Light:** It grows best in full sunlight.
2. **Moisture:** It has more water requirement during seed germination and establishment.
3. **Propagation:** By seeds.

Economic importance:

1. Its bark yields tannin.
2. Leather made from its bark is firm and durable.
3. Its gum is used for calico printing and dyeing, and sizing material for silk and cotton, and in paper manufacture; used also as a substitute of gum arabic.
4. Roasted seeds are eaten; yield a fatty oil.
5. Pods when green, used as fodder.
6. Decoction of bark used as a gargle, and that of pods in urino-genital diseases.

Plant description: A medium sized spiny tree

1. **Root-** Tap root, branched; **Stem-** Aerial, erect, solid, woody, cylindrical, brownish with small eruptions, branched; bark glaucous;
2. **Leaf-** Compound, bipinnate, paripinnate, green, stipulate, stipules modified into spines, petiolate, petiole green, 2-3 cm long, leaflets 6-9 pairs, oval, entire, obtuse, green, opposite, uncostate reticulate venation
3. **Inflorescence-** Cymose heads;
4. **Flower-** Complete, bracteate, actinomorphic, hermaphrodite, hypogynous, pedicellate, pedicel green, 2-4 cm long; **Sepals-** 5, minute, gamosepalous, campanulate, valvate aestivation, inferior; **Stamens-** indefinite, polyandrous, filaments 2-2.5 cm long, yellow with slight creamish base, introrse, anthers minute, yellow ; **Carpel-** 1, monocarpellary, ovary superior, green, small, unilocular, marginal placentation, style minute, green, stigma simple, green, minute;
5. **Fruit-** A lomentaceous pod, 5-7 cm long, green when immature and brown when mature, 7-11 seeds; **Seed-** Brown, small, rounded.

Close up view of plant parts





Flora of KC