



TREE SPECIES (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Ochroma pyramidale

ENGLISH COMMON NAME

Corkwood, Downtree, Balsa wood, West Indian balsa, Balsa

COLOMBIAN COMMON NAME

Balzo, Balso real, Balso algodón, Tambor, Samo

TREE FAMILY

MALVACEAE

AVERAGE LEAF SIZE (CM)

38cm × 30cm
Length Width

DISTRIBUTION



NATIVE TO COLOMBIA

ELEVATIONAL RANGE (M)

0–1800m

TREE HEIGHT

MEDIUM (20–35M)



NATIVE TO

Region: Americas

Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Central American Pacific Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Golfo de Mexico, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Trinidad-Tobago, Venezuela, Windward Islands
Colombia: Antioquia, Caldas, Cauca, Cundinamarca, Huila, Nariño, Quindío, Risaralda, Santander, Tolima, Valle del Cauca

EXOTIC IN

Latin America: Africa

COFFEE AGROFORESTRY INFORMATION

COFFEE SYSTEM



ARABICA

COFFEE IMPACT

Unknown

TREE MANAGEMENT

Propagated by seeds, It is highly sensitive to transplantation.

CULTIVATION



PLANTED



NATURAL

TREE BENEFITS AND USES

FARMER USES



Lumber, Medicinal, Ornamental, Product, Ceremonial

Used to adorn and decorate spaces and riverbanks. Its bark is used to treat baldness, and the roots decoction is used as diuretic and to treat syphilis. Juice from its leaves dissolved in water is used for baths which is believed to soothe headaches. The cottony material that surrounds the seed is used as pillow stuffing, and the living bark is a good source of ties for construction and securing packages. Several indigenous communities attribute to the balsam tree a magical-religious quality, considering it important in healing as well as cursing rituals. Used to make toys, model airplanes, windmills, as a thermal and acoustic insulator, navigation rafts, buoys, fishing nets, hooks, and handicrafts.

FARM SERVICES



Coffee Shade, Reforestation

Shade. Forest restoration, it is a pioneer species. Used for water protection and decontamination. Degraded soils stabilization.

BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

✓ YES

Attracts seed dispersers, as fruits are consumed by frugivorous mammals and birds. Provides wildlife habitat.

Last Updated: February 20, 2025

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