



TREE SPECIES (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Swietenia macrophylla

PERU COMMON NAME

Caoba

TREE FAMILY

MELIACEAE

AVERAGE LEAF SIZE (CM)

11.5cm × **4.5cm**
Length Width

DISTRIBUTION

**NATIVE TO PERU**

ELEVATIONAL RANGE (M)

0–1500m

TREE HEIGHT

LARGE (> 35M)

COFFEE AGROFORESTRY INFORMATION

COFFEE SYSTEM

**ARABICA**

COFFEE IMPACT

**BENEFICIAL TO COFFEE**

CULTIVATION

**PLANTED****NATURAL**

PREVALENCE

Unknown

TREE MANAGEMENT

The seeds are dispersed by the wind and planted by seed. Young trees are quite shade-tolerant, but full light combined with side protection is necessary for optimal growth. The tree is self-pruning and pruning is usually not necessary if it is established with sufficiently wide spacing. The age of rotation is 30-35 years when grown for wood.

TREE BENEFITS AND USES

FARMER USES

**Livestock Forage, Lumber, Medicinal, Ornamental, Product**

It is of excellent quality and used in the manufacture of luxury furniture, cabinetmaking, musical instruments and interior and exterior carpentry. Handmade arrangements are made with the fruits and flowers. The bark contains a large amount of tannins and is used to dye hides and leather. Crushed fruit peels have been used as a potting medium. The bark and seeds have medicinal use against fever and diarrhea.

FARM SERVICES

**Coffee Shade, Reforestation**

Reforestation: used as a pioneer species to reoccupy degraded agricultural land and has been used in reforestation projects

BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

No

The flowers are visited by insects.

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Image: Swietenia macrophylla fruits: Daniela Zappi © RBG Kew <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> Swietenia macrophylla herbarium 1; Swietenia macrophylla herbarium 2; Swietenia macrophylla herbarium 3: Herbarium Catalogue Specimens Digital Image © Board of Trustees, RBG Kew <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> Solis R, Vallejos-Torres G, Arévalo L, Marín-Díaz J, Nique-Alvarez M, Engedal T, Bruun TB (2020). Carbon stocks and the use of shade trees in different coffee growing systems in the Peruvian Amazon. The Journal of Agricultural Science 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S002185962000074X>;

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