

Albizia falcataria

General Information:

- ➔ Also known as *Falcataria moluccanai* is a fairly large and very fast-growing deciduous tree with a spreading, flat crown; it can grow up to 40 metres tall. The straight, cylindrical bole is unbuttressed; it can be free of branches for up to 20 metres and 100cm or more in diameter.
- ➔ Said to be the fastest growing tree in the world, it is commonly harvested from the wild for its timber, and has been extensively planted for this purpose in much of the tropics.

Common Name: Batai

Range: Pacific area - Indonesia (Moluccas) to New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Habitat: A pioneer species, occurring in primary but more usually in secondary lowland rainforest.



Cultivation Details

Batai is a tree of low to medium elevations of the wetter tropics, succeeding from sea level to elevations of 1,200 metres. It succeeds in areas where the mean annual temperature is in the range 22 - 29°C and the mean annual rainfall is 2,000 - 4,000mm, averaging 2,800mm. Trees can succeed on comparatively poor sites and survive without fertilizer. However, they do not thrive in poorly drained, flooded or waterlogged soils. Prefers a pH in the range 5 - 8, tolerating 4.5 - 8.5. On good sites it can attain a height of 7 metres in just over a year. Trees reach a mean height of 25.5 metres and a bole diameter of 17cm after 6 years, 32.5 metres high and 40.5cm diameter after 9 years, 38 metres high and 54cm diameter after 12 years, and 39 metres high and 63.5cm diameter after 15 years. Trees may flower when as young as 3 years. Ripe pods appear approximately 2 months after flowering. The pods dehisce when ripe, often when still attached to the tree, scattering the seeds on the ground.

Source: <http://tropical.theferns.info/>