

Kolomona, scrambled-eggs

Cassia surattensis Burm. f.

Legume family (Leguminosae)

Post-Cook introduction

Introduced ornamental evergreen shrub or small tree, escaping at low altitudes, with abundant bright yellow five-petaled flowers throughout the year. To 20 ft (6 m) tall, with gray brown bark, smoothish, becoming slightly fissured. Inner bark light yellow beneath green outermost layer, fibrous, bitter. Twigs finely hairy. *Cassia* subfamily (Caesalpinioideae).

Leaves alternate, pinnately compound, 4–5 inches (10–13 cm) long, with slender finely hairy axis enlarged at base and grooved above. Leaflets mostly 12–20, paired, almost stalkless with gland at base of three lowest pairs, elliptical, $\frac{1}{2}$ – $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches (1.3–4.5 cm) long and $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{5}{8}$ inch (6–15 mm) wide, thin, rounded or slightly notched at apex, rounded at base, not toothed, dull green above, paler beneath with fine pressed hairs.

Flower clusters (corymbs) terminal and lateral, about 3 inches (7.5 cm) long, branched. Flowers several on slender hairy stalks $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 inch (13–25 mm) long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ –2 inches (4–5 cm) across, composed of calyx of five unequal rounded greenish yellow sepals, five spreading elliptical slightly unequal petals to $\frac{7}{8}$ inch (22 mm) long, short-stalked at three-veined base, 10 short unequal stamens, and slender pistil with curved hairy ovary, short style, and dot stigma.

Fruits (pods) 2–4 inches (5–10 cm) long, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (13 mm) wide, flat, thin, dull dark brown, almost hairless, with long narrow point at end, splitting open on both edges. Seeds 10–20, beanlike, oblong, flattened, shiny dark brown, $\frac{3}{16}$ inch (5 mm) long.

Wood whitish, hard. It is reported that the bark is medicinal.

This planted ornamental has escaped to roadsides, pastures, and waste places at lower altitudes and is quite common; it is often used as a hedge plant. Only 224 trees have been planted in the Forest Reserves, all on Maui in the Koolau Forest Reserve.

Special areas

Waimea Arboretum, Volcanoes (coastal forests)

Range

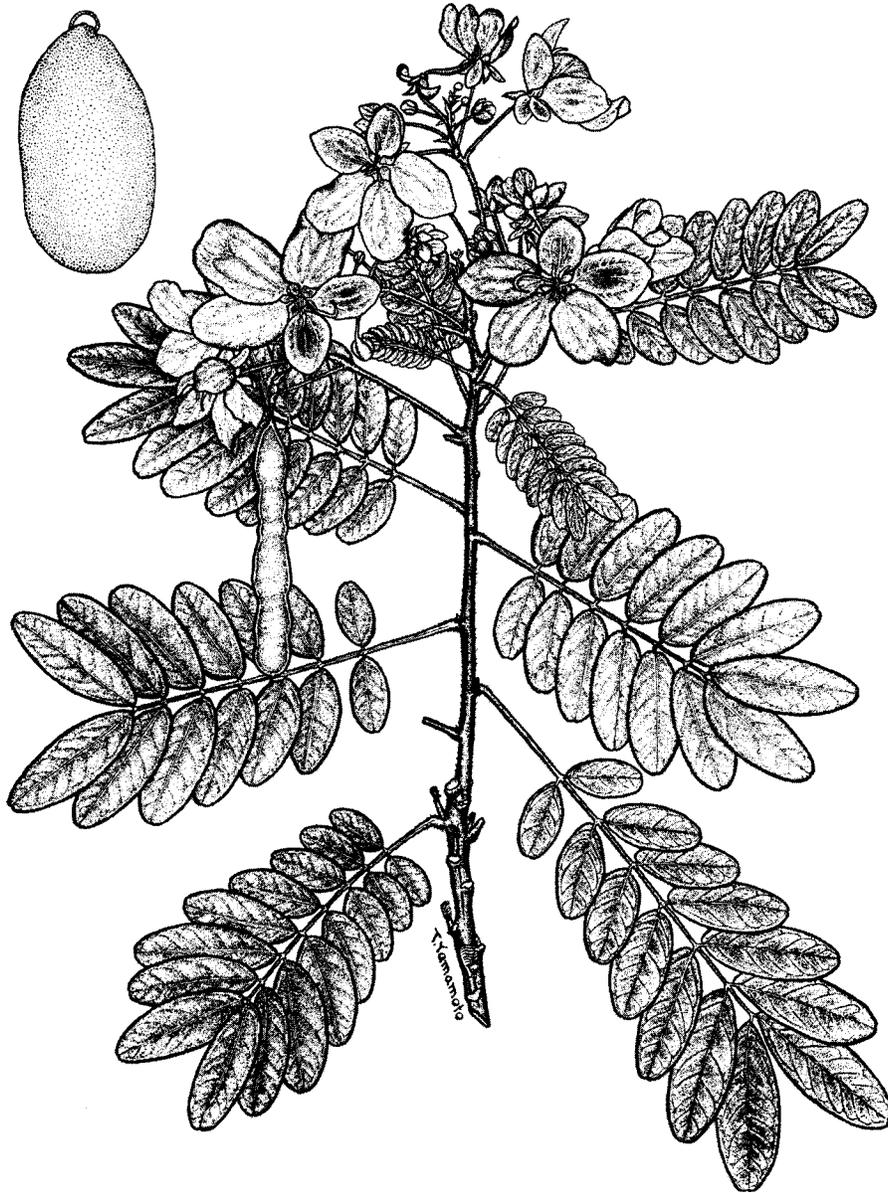
Native from India to Australia and Polynesia.

Other common names

kalamona, glossy-shower senna

Botanical synonyms

Cassia glauca Lam., *Psilorhegma glauca* (Lam.) Deg. & I. Deg., *Senna surattensis* (Burm. f.) Irwin & Barneby



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Twig with flowers and fruits, 1/2 X; seed (upper left), 5 X (Degener).