

African Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix africana</i>	Is- Sigra tal-Bruk
Common English name	Scientific name	Maltese name

Where is this tree found in the world – (Species Distribution)

The Tamarisk tree is native to the drier areas of Eurasia and Africa. It is native to the Maltese Islands.

What is the preferred habitat for this tree?

It is found along with coastal areas, dunes and estuaries. More frequent in Gozo and Comino, where it forms small woodlands. It is salt tolerant. The other Tamarix species (*T. gallica*) had been introduced.

Is it green all year (evergreen), or does it change according to the season (deciduous)?

It is deciduous.

How tall can it grow? (Usual or maximum height)

It may grow to a max of 7m with many branches.

What are the leaves and flowers like?

Its scale-like leaves are tiny and green. Its tiny pink or white flowers usually bloom in spring or early summer, though they may sometimes bloom in winter.

What are the fruits like?

Once the flowers are insect-pollinated, a capsule-like fruit is formed with many seeds.



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What do humans use this tree for?

As it is somewhat tolerant of maritime exposure, it provides good shelter to coastal habitats, avoiding erosion of sandy soils while offering shelter to various organisms, including birds.



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Does this tree have legal protection?

The African tamarisk is protected within protected areas outside the development zone (ODZ), in green places, and natural or rural/green enclaves in urban areas or urban public open spaces. (according to the ERA 2018 list of trees and woodland protection regulations).

