



CASSIA

(*Senna siamea*)

Senna siamea is a native of Indo-Malaysia. It grows in both moist and dry places to a height of 25 m. The tree grows on our lowlands in Jamaica and when a tree is well established it can withstand months of drought.

The trees are evergreen and can produce much shade when well maintained. They are often planted along the sides of streets and other sites where shade is wanted, hence its other name, Government tree. The leaves are compound and are between 15 and 30 cm long. There is a main central stalk with six to twelve pairs of leaflets on it.

The greenish-yellow flowers occur in bunches and the fruit is a narrow pod 20 - 25 cm long. They too are found in clusters.

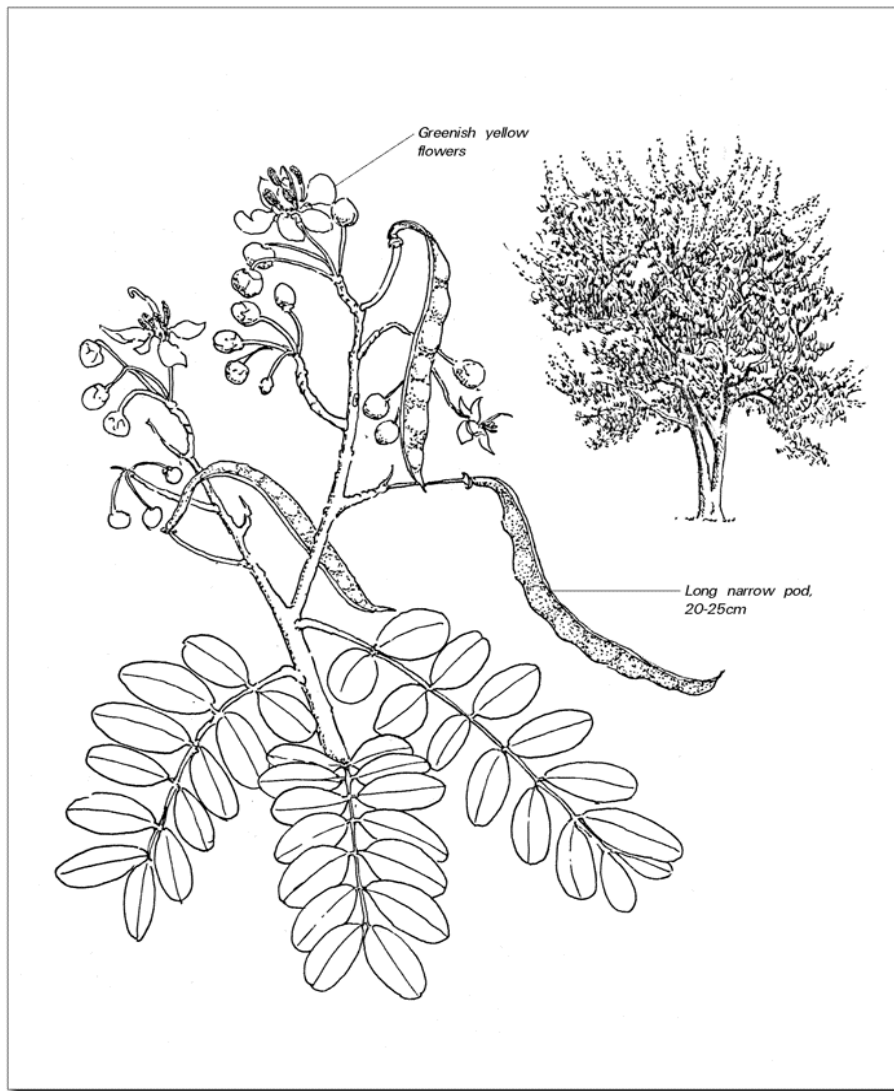
Senna siamea grows easily and quickly and is a favourite of goats and cows. Strangely, pigs get sick when they eat this plant although they too enjoy it. The heartwood of the plant is used in furniture making and as poles in construction. It can be cultivated as a source of fuelwood. Sometimes scale insects attack and can destroy the trees.

Until recently this plant was originally known as *Cassia siamea*.



CASSIA (*Senna siamea*)

Family: Caesalpiaceae	Species: <i>Senna siamea</i>	Author: Lam
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Height: 25m	Habitat: Lowlands	Persistence: Evergreen
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