

Bauhinia purpurea

(Orchid Tree, Butterfly Tree)

Orchid tree is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia. It is a deciduous tree which loses its leaves before it blooms. It is known for its large, orchid-like flowers which range red to purple to pink. The bloom is followed by large seedpods which create a litter problem. It does best on dry soils in full sun and requires pruning throughout its life.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Arbre aux orchidées

Pronunciation: bah-HIN-ee-uh per-POOR-ee-uh

Plant Type: Tree

Origin: Southeast Asia, China

Heat Zones: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Hardiness Zones: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Specimen, Shade, Wildlife, Street, Reclamation

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Fast

Tree Shape: Round, Vase

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Medium

Canopy Texture: Coarse

Height at Maturity: 5 to 8 m

Spread at Maturity: 5 to 8 meters

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Palmate

Leaf Persistence: Deciduous

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Orbiculate

Leaf Margins: Lobate, Cleft

Leaf Textures: Medium

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 10 - 20

Flower Type: Solitary

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: Pleasant

Flower Color: Red, Purple, Blue, Pink

Seasons: Fall, Winter

Trunk

Trunk Has Crownshaft: False

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Suspected to breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked, Can be trained to one trunk

Trunk Esthetic Values: Not Showy

Fruit

Fruit Type: Legume

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: Over 20 cm

Fruit Colors: Green, Brown

Seasons: Fall, Winter

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Moderate

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements:

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Invasive Potential: Yes

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: Needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: Yes

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: 25-50 years

Diseases: Leaf Spots, Physiological

Edible Parts: None

Pests: Mites, Caterpillars, Borers

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting, Layering, Grafting

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



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Other Image