

## 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

## Bauhinia purpurea

(Orchid Tree, Butterfly Tree)



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

---

## Bauhinia purpurea

(Orchid Tree, Butterfly Tree)



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



© Photo by LDEM AUB

Other Image