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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>French Name</strong>: Arbre aux orchidées</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pronunciation</strong>: bah-HIN-ee-uh per-POOR-ee-uh</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plant Type</strong>: Tree</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Origin</strong>: Southeast Asia, China</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Heat Zones</strong>: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16</td>
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<td><strong>Hardiness Zones</strong>: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uses</strong>: Specimen, Shade, Wildlife, Street, Reclamation</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size/Shape</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Growth Rate</strong>: Fast</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tree Shape</strong>: Round, Vase</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Canopy Symmetry</strong>: Symmetrical</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Canopy Density</strong>: Medium</td>
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<td><strong>Canopy Texture</strong>: Coarse</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Height at Maturity</strong>: 5 to 8 m</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spread at Maturity</strong>: 5 to 8 meters</td>
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### Botanical Description

#### Foliage

- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
- **Leaf Venation:** Palmate  
- **Leaf Persistance:** 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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**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