

Bombax ceiba

(Cotton Tree)

Bombax ceiba is a large, spiny, deciduous tree, often planted for its showy, waxy red flowers. Cotton tree drops its leaves end of the dry season only for short time. During this time the large showy red flower will cover the bold tree. Flower is a nectar source for bats and birds. The trunk and branches are usually covered with conical thorns especially when young. The fruits are capsules with silky hair. The tree has high tolerance for pest and diseases.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Kapokier rouge

Pronunciation: BOM-baks SAY-buh

Plant Type: Tree

Origin: Asia

Heat Zones: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

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

Uses: Specimen, Shade, Wildlife, Street

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: oval

Canopy Symmetry: Irregular

Canopy Density: Open

Canopy Texture: Fine

Height at Maturity: 15 to 23 m

Spread at Maturity: 10 to 15 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: 10 to 20 Years

Notes

The flowers are borne on leafless trunk. Take advantage of the winter blooming plant it in as a center point. Bombax ceiba makes a showy specimen tree for tropical parks and estates

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Palmate

Leaf Persistence: Deciduous

Leaf Type: Palmately Compound

Leaf Blade: 10 - 20

Leaf Shape: Oval

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Leathery, Coarse

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Yellow

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 10 - 20

Flower Type: Capitulum

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Orange, Red

Seasons: Winter

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Can be trained to one trunk

Trunk Esthetic Values: Showy, Spines

Fruit

Fruit Type: Capsule

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 3 - 7

Fruit Colors: Brown

Seasons: Winter

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Toxity: No

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Life Span: 25-50 years

Edible Parts: None

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting

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Fruit Image



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Bark Image



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Other Image