

## Flowering Trees for Southwest Florida

### Cultural Notes for Flowering Tree Video

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**Royal Poinciana**  
*Delonix regia*

**Height:** 35' to 50'  
**Spread:** 40' to 75'  
**Growth Rate:** Fast  
**Light Requirement:** Full sun

**Flower Color:**  
Red, Orange-red, or yellow

**Bloom Time:** Mid-May thru July  
**Intense Blooming Days:**\* 39

**Roots:** Can form large, aggressive surface roots  
**Seed Pods:** Up to 25" long x 2 ½" wide  
**Zone:** 10–12

*\*Intense Blooming Days Definition:  
The numbers of days at which a plant blooms 50 percent or more of its full potential. –Stephen Brown, Lee County*



**Jacaranda Tree**  
*Jacaranda mimosifolia*

**Height:** 35' to 45'  
**Spread:** 45' to 50'  
**Growth Rate:** Fast  
**Light Requirement:** Full sun

**Flower Color:** Lavender, purple  
**Bloom Time:** April thru June  
**Intense Blooming Days:**\* 34

**Roots:** Can form large surface roots  
**Zone:** 9b–11

This variety has stronger blooming in the cooler Tampa climate. Consider *J. cuspidifolia* for true blue blossoms and more reliable flowering in South Florida. Briefly deciduous.



**Purple Trumpet Tree**  
*Tabebuia impetiginosa*

Now, *Handroanthus impetiginosus*

**Height:** 30'  
**Spread:** 20' to 25'  
**Growth Rate:** Slow-moderate  
**Light Requirement:** Full sun

**Flower Color:** Dark pink to lavender, with yellow throat  
**Bloom Time:** Late January thru March  
**Intense Blooming Days:**\* 22

**Roots:** Not a problem  
**Zone:** 9a–12b

Leafless when in flower; seed pods up to 22" long x ½" wide.



**Queens Crape-myrtle**  
*Lagerstroemia speciosa*

**Height:** 30' to 60'  
**Spread:** 30' to 40'  
**Growth Rate:** Fast  
**Light Requirements:** Full sun

**Flower Color:** Pink to lavender  
**Bloom Time:** May to September

**Roots:** Not a problem  
**Zone:** 10B–11

**Seed Pods:** 1" brown pods

Bark is attractive. Leaves change to reddish color before dropping. Flowers are 1½" in diameter and are the texture of crepe paper.

Keep pruned to a safe height as preparation for hurricane events.



**Golden Shower Tree**  
*Cassia fistula*

**Height:** 30' to 50'  
**Spread:** 30' to 40'  
**Growth Rate:** Fast  
**Light Requirement:** Full Sun

**Flower Color:** Yellow  
**Bloom Time:** May to July  
**Intense Blooming Days:**\* 36

**Roots:** Not a problem  
**Zone:** 9b–12b

**Seed Pods:** Up to 24" long with ¾" diameter.

Pulp is strongly purgative, sometimes called the purging cassia. Leaves drop before flowering. However, during flowering, most trees quickly regain most or all of their foliage.



**Pink Shower Tree**  
*Cassia bakeriana*

**Height:** 20' to 30'  
**Spread:** 20' to 30'  
**Growth Rate:** Fast  
**Light Requirement:** Full sun

**Flower Color:** Deep pink to white  
**Bloom time:** Late March to mid-May

**Intense Blooming Days:**\* Maybe 35 to 42 days

**Roots:** Not a problem  
**Zone:** 10–12

This is a recent introduction, so we are still learning about it. Available at Miami and Homestead nurseries. Perfect medium sized tree for homeowners and a great substitute for Live Oaks.

A native of the Mandalay, Burma area.

## Go to the EDIS [Every Day Information Source] Website

Download free documents about these and other flowering trees.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>





**Hong Kong Orchid Tree**  
*Bauhinia x Blakeana*

**Height:** 30' to 40'  
**Spread:** 25' to 30'  
**Growth Rate:** Fast  
**Light Requirement:** Full sun, partial sun, partial shade

**Flower Color:** Rose-violet, purplish  
**Bloom Time:** Late October to early March  
**Intense Blooming Days:** 119

**Roots:** Not a problem  
**Zone:** 9b–12b

One of the longest flowering trees!  
It is sterile, no seed pods! Propagate by air-layering, grafting or cuttings.  
Briefly deciduous.

Discovered by monks in Hong Kong, China. Not been found anywhere else in the world.



**Fall Orchid Tree**  
*Bauhinia purpurea*

**Height:** 30' to 40'  
**Spread:** 30' to 35'  
**Growth Rate:** Fast  
**Light Requirement:** Full sun, partial sun, partial shade

**Flower Color:** pink, purple, reddish  
**Bloom Time:** September to November

**Seed Pods:** 6" to 12"  
**Roots:** Not a problem  
**Zone:** 9–11

Briefly deciduous.

Long slender branches give it a semi-weeping look. Origin from Asia.



**Orchid Tree**  
*Bauhinia variegata*

**Height:** 30' to 35'  
**Spread:** 30' to 35'  
**Growth Rate:** Fast  
**Light Requirement:** Full sun, partial sun, partial shade

**Flower Color:** Shades of purple, 'Candida' is a white flowering form  
**Bloom Time:** Early March to April  
**Intense Blooming Days:** 35  
**Roots:** Not a problem  
**Seed Pods:** 6" to 12"  
**Zone:** 9–11

Briefly deciduous. Often called the Orchid tree or poor man's orchid. On the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's Category 1 Invasives list. Avoid planting.

**See the Flowering Tree Video at this Link**

<http://youtu.be/b1EuXmdjIUA>

**Subscribe to My Newsletter at this Link**

<http://eepurl.com/Q7K5D>

*Credit: Stephen Brown, UF/IFAS Lee County Extension, for details on flowering trees—especially Intense Blooming Days—for Southwest Florida. Go to this link to learn more:*

[http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsAZ/Flowering\\_Trees\\_Fact\\_Sheets.pdf](http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsAZ/Flowering_Trees_Fact_Sheets.pdf)

Doug Caldwell is a Certified Arborist and the commercial horticulture extension agent and landscape entomologist with the University of Florida Collier County Extension Service. The Cooperative Extension Service is an off-campus branch of the University of Florida, Institute of the Food and Agricultural Sciences and a department of the Public Services Division of Collier County government. Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, creed, sex, handicap or national origin.

For updates on the Southwest Florida horticulture visit: <http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu>