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

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.

*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
Golden Shower Tree  
*Cassia fistula*

**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.

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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.

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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.

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Go to the EDIS [Every Day Information Source] Website
Download free documents about these and other flowering trees.

[http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/](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.

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)

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