

Flowering Trees for Southwest Florida

Cultural Notes for Flowering Tree Video

Doug Caldwell, Ph.D. ■ U.F. Commercial Landscape Horticulture Extension, Collier County



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

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>