

Genus : Erythrina

Family: Fabaceae

Coral Tree

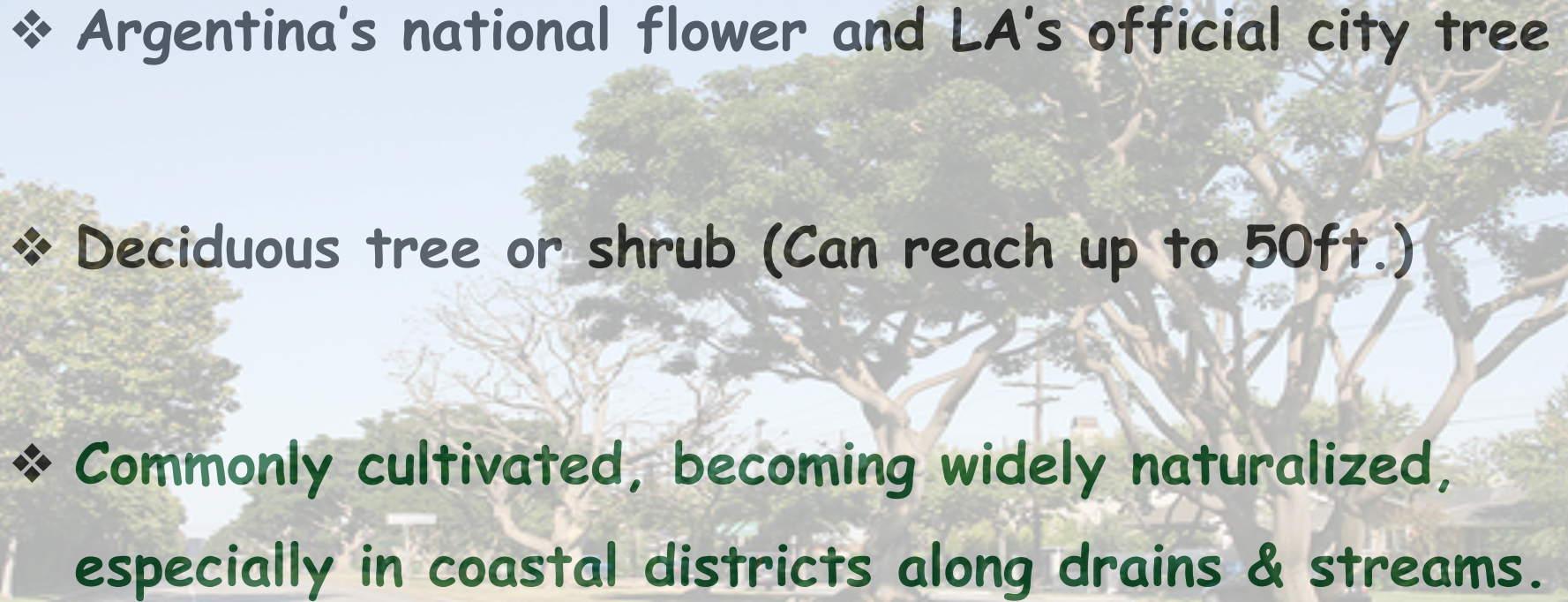
Getting to know Erythrina

A.k.a. the Cockspur Coral Tree...



- ❖ Beautiful, colorful flowers
- ❖ Attracts birds and butterflies
- ❖ Hardy
- ❖ Drought tolerant
- ❖ Resistant to cold weather



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- ❖ Argentina's national flower and LA's official city tree
 - ❖ Deciduous tree or shrub (Can reach up to 50ft.)
 - ❖ Commonly cultivated, becoming widely naturalized, especially in coastal districts along drains & streams.

- ❖ **Leaves:** Compound trifoliate leaves with prickles on stems.
- ❖ **Flowers:** Very large spikes of bright scarlet or coral-red pea like bird attracting flowers in Spring-Summer.
- ❖ **Fruit:** Long green pods age brown and open with a twist revealing large, hard, bean like seeds.



BEWARE !

Erythrina has a dark side...

- ❖ Commonly considered a tree weed. Can quickly become a weed.
- ❖ Roots: Substantial tap and lateral root system capable of invading plumbing pipes.
- ❖ Will sucker from root fragments left in ground. Branches left on the ground can re-grow into new plants.



The dark side...continues

- ❖ Lays dormant during the cold season and sprouts up in Spring.
- ❖ Very difficult to control.
- ❖ Has the potential to invade natural areas such as hind-dunes, rainforests, wetlands creeks, and saltmarshes.
- ❖ Removal of this species is recommended.