



# Common Name-Hong Kong Orchid Tree

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Master Gardener Class 2018



**Common Name:** Hong King Orchid Tree

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Genus:** *Bauhinia* (A genus of >500 species)

**Species:** *Bauhinia* × *blakeana*; Pronunciation: bah-HIN-ee-uh blay-kee-AY-nuh

**Plant type:** Legume family/Tree

- They usually are sterile- rarely produces fruit or seeds
- Propagation is by grafting, cuttings & air-layering

**History:** Although now cultivated in many areas, it originated in Hong Kong in 1880. (It is believed that all cultivated trees derive from one cultivated at the Hong Kong Botanical Gardens and widely planted in Hong Kong starting in 1914.)

*The flag of Hong Kong features a distinctive five-petal white flower on a red background. This flower became Hong Kong's emblem when the territory was handed over to China in 1997*







## Growth habit:

Grows: 12-24" per year

Height: 20-40' at maturity

Width: 20-25' at maturity

Life expectancy: 40-150 years



**Flower appearance:**

**Color:** Pink, purple, or rose (5-6" across-larger than other bauhinia)

**Fragrance:** Yes

**Bloom season:** Early November to late March

They are said to resemble butterflies



**Foliage appearance:**

**Shape:** Lobed and palmate

**Color:** Gray green

**Bark:** Light or dark gray

**Partly deciduous** at bloom time



# Additional considerations:

- Enjoys full sun to partial shade
- Enjoys moist soil (loam or sand)\*
- Does not tolerate of frost\*
- Prefers highly acidic to slightly alkaline soil
- Susceptible to aphids (but free of serious pests and diseases)
- Considered low risk for root damage
- Attracts birds
- Although no fruit it can be messy

References-Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Urban and Community Forestry  
<https://selectree.calpoly.edu/tree>; University of Florida IFAS Extension-  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st088>; Sunset Western Garden Book