



Chinese Flame Tree

Koelreuteria bipinnata

Presented by Shelley Schwartz

- ▶ Botanic name: *koelreuteria bipinnata* (keel-roo-TER-ee-uh) (by-pin-NAY-tuh)
 - ▶ also known as (Chinese flame tree, Chinese golden rain tree, Bougainvillea golden-rain tree)
- ▶ Species of Koelreuteria
- ▶ Family: Sapindaceae (sap-in-DAY-see-ee)
- ▶ Spreading with low canopy
- ▶ Deciduous
- ▶ Perennial
- ▶ Dicot
- ▶ Height of 20-40 feet
- ▶ Lives 50 to 150 years

- ▶ Leaves are alternate, bipinnately compound, with an ovate shape and a pinnate venation. They are green and turn yellow in fall.
- ▶ Flowers are small and yellow with a touch of red at the base, with four petals. They are very showy and have a pleasant fragrance. They flower in the summer from July to August.
- ▶ Fruit is a three-lobed inflated papery capsule that is 3-6 cm long, containing several hard nut-like seeds that are 5-10 mm diameter with a pink color.
- ▶ The bark is thin and brown, bends down a little as the tree grows. Pruning is required to develop a strong structure. The tree is characterized as a weak wooded tree.



► History and Location

- Species native to Asia, particularly China. They can also be found in Korea, Japan, Europe, New Zealand, Australia, Israel and some parts of the US (coastal and southern states)
- Discovery is credited to Pierre d'Incarville who sent the first seeds from China to Russia in 1747
- Grown in Europe by 1753 and reached America in 1811

► How to Grow

- Tolerate nutritionally poor soil
- Require full sun but not a lot of watering
- Grows moderately and are sometimes fast growers
- One of the few trees that bloom in the summer

► Pest and Diseases

- Susceptible to Invasive Shot Hole Borer, Beetle Borers and Scales
- Bark can develop canker disease under certain cultural conditions

► Uses

- Commonly used as focal points in landscape design
- Often used as patio, shade or specimen tree
- Seeds are used in beads for necklaces and the flowers can yield a yellow dye
- Used in flower arrangements

