



Genus

***Bauhinia***

(baa·hee·nee·uh)





Large genus - trees, shrubs, & vines

Pantropical

Most evergreen, but some winter or drought deciduous

Perfect flowers & leathery deeply lobed leaves.

Family: Fabaceae

Sub Family: Cercidoideae

Genus: *Bauhinia*





## Orchid Tree

Common ornamentals in public spaces as well as yards.

- Fast growers
- Trees may reach 20-40 ft height and width
- Climbers may need strong support
- May have multiple trunks or large branches in need of support or pruning
- Flowering most common late winter-early summer





### Growing conditions:

Full sun to part shade

Generous water in summer, moist in winter

Not generally frost hearty

Prune crowded growth



## Propagating:

Though they grow easily from seed (and can bloom in only 2-3 years), some seeds may require scarification.

They can be propagated from suckers but usually not from cuttings.





## Uses:

*Bauhinia* bark has been used for tanning.

Some species seeds have been used as a food source.

Wood has been used as fuel or building material in some parts of the world

In other places certain species are considered weeds.



Pests:

Leaf Spot disease:  
Anthracnoses

A group of related fungal diseases. Causes dark lesions on leaves, possibly cankers on stems.



Root nematodes

Too small to see. Look for swelling in roots. Above ground: wilting even with sufficient moisture, unexplained underperformance. Soil sample can be sent for testing.

Giant Whitefly

Adults up to 3/16", spirals of wax on underside of leaves



Pink hibiscus  
mealybug



Silverleaf whitefly

Promotes growth of black sooty mold, causes defoliation





*B. variegata*, *B. purpurea* two of the most common in landscaping

Large blooms, 2-3 inches, and an overall size that is manageable, 20-35 ft.



One of the most notable examples is a hybrid of those two species. The *B. x blakeana* is the official emblem of Hong Kong.



One species of *Bauhinia* native to the US *Bauhinia lunarioides*  
Native to Southwestern Texas and Northern Mexico

Common names include Texasplume, Anacacho orchid tree, and pata de vaca.





NOT a *Bauhinia*, but in the same sub family  
Cercidoiceae, within the family Fabaceae

Our native **Western Redbud**:  
***Cercis occidentalis***

smaller and more shrub like; similar look to  
the *Bauhinia* spp. most commonly used as  
ornamentals.





# References

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