



Spathodea campanulata

African Tulip Tree

Fire Ball
Flame of the Forest
Fountain Tree

By Post of Rwanda - https://colnect.com/en/stamps/stamp/483350-Spathodea_campbellata-Blossoms-Rwanda, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=115803087>

Taxonomic Tree

Domain: Eukaryote

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Spermatophyta

Subphylum: Angiospermae

Class: **Dicotyledonae**

Order: Scrophulariales

Family: **Bignoniaceae**

Genus: **Spathodea**

Species: *Spathodea campanulata*



Upper left photo: https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/sites/default/files/2016-10/jacaranda_03.jpg

Upper right photo: <https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/hero-cape-honeysuckle.jpg>

Lower photo: By Stan Shebs, CC BY-SA 3.0,
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General Description

- Evergreen tree
- 75 - 80 feet tall
- Showy flowers
- Native to West Africa
- Fast growing in optimal conditions:
 - moist areas below 1000 m (3280 ft)
 - full sun
 - rich soil

By Ping an Chang - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=117553739>

Flowers

- Blooms year round
- Clusters at the end of branches
- Reddish-orange to crimson petals
- Yellow margin & throat
- Campanulate ("bell-like") shape
- 5 petals
- 8 to 15 cm long
- Pollinated by birds and bats



By Steven Haw - *Spathodea campanulata* Uploaded by berichard, CC BY 2.0,
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Seeds

- 1 to 4 boat-shaped pods on each flower cluster
- 15 - 25 cm (6 to 10 in)
- Pods mature 5 months after flowering
- Wind-dispersed
- Membranous wing

Left Photo:

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Lower right photo:

By Eric Guinther - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Seed_AfTulip.jpg

Leaves & Bark

- Compound leaves
- 3 to 19 leaflets
- approximately 5" long by 3" wide
- Favorite nesting site for hole-building birds such as barbets

Left photo:

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Pests

Reported pests - 14 insects:

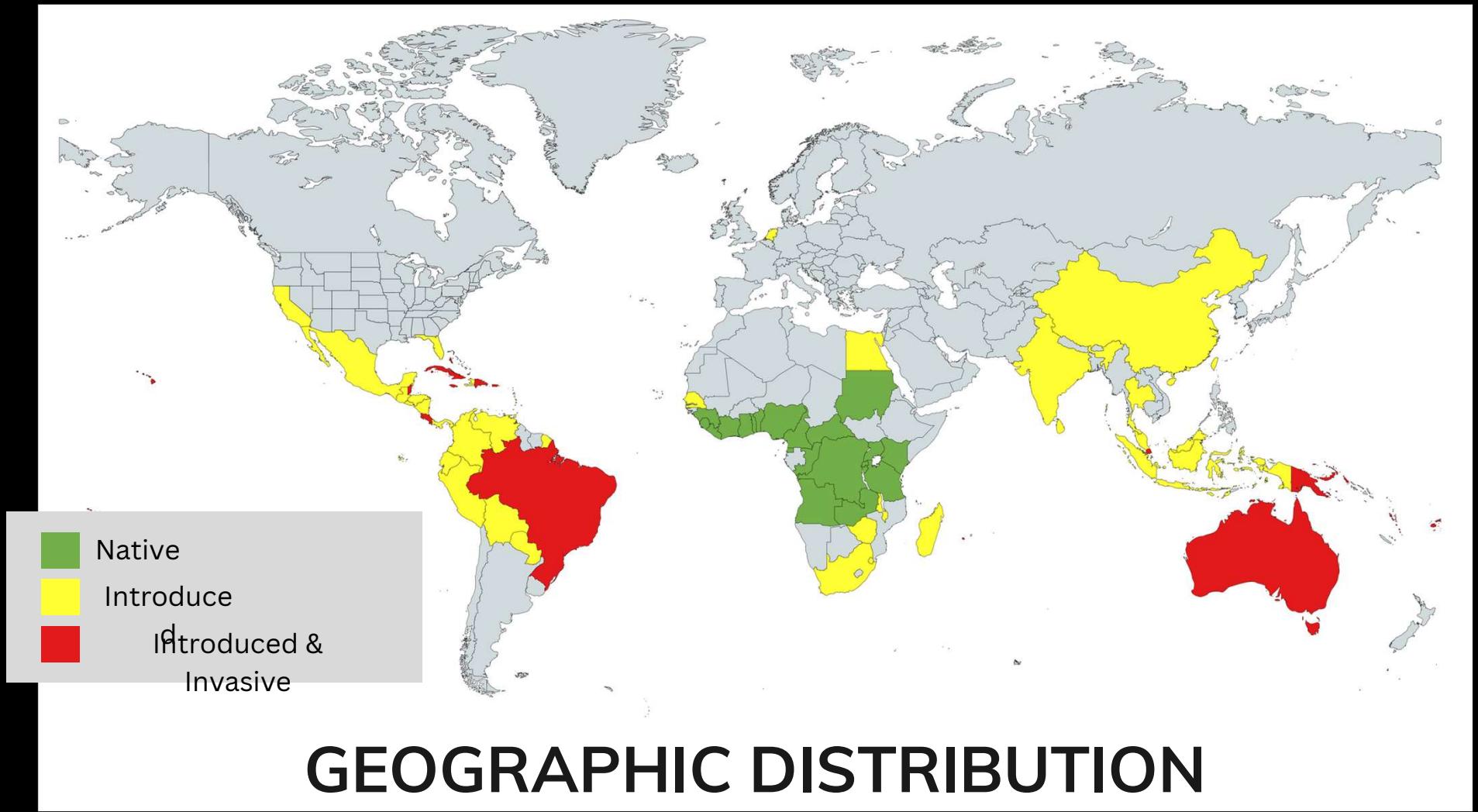
- Coleoptera
- Hemiptera
- Hymenoptera
- Lepidoptera
- Thysanoptera

Diseases

Susceptible to heart & butt rots



By Forest & Kim Starr, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6150744>



Positive Characteristics

- Edible seeds
- Bark, flowers & leaves used in traditional medicine
- Fire-resistant landscaping
- Paper, drums & blacksmith bellows
- Water pistols
- Arrow poison

By Kirt Edblom from Kihei, HI, United States - African Tulip Tree, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=105113695>





Negative Characteristics

- Dangerous near homes & roadways
- Toxic to pollinators & beneficial insects, especially bees
- Extremely fast growing
- Notorious pasture pest
- Prolific seeders
- Shade-tolerant seedlings
- Will colonize heavily eroded sites

Upper left photo:
By B.Navez - Self-photographed, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=782498>

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Warnings

- It has been nominated as among 100 of the "World's Worst" invaders. (Global Invasive Species Database)
- It is a Declared Class 3 invasive weed n Queensland, Australia
- "Likely to cause significant ecological or economic harm in Hawai'i and on other Pacific Islands ..." (GISD)
- Rated "No Grow" by Plant Pono
- Weed Risk Assessment score 14 - "HIGH RISK"



Most



Sources

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