

## ***Bauhinia purpurea***

*Bauhinia purpurea* is an exotic small to medium sized tropical tree that blooms over a long period of time. It is commonly known as Butterfly tree, Pink butterfly tree, Purple bauhinia, Purple butterfly tree, Geranium tree, Camel's foot tree, Mountain ebony, or Purple orchid tree. It belongs to the family Caesalpiniaceae and is a native to India. The name *Bauhinia* refers to the two lobes of the leaf. The name is given by Linnaeus in honour of twin brothers and French botanists - John Bauhin and Gaspard Bauhin. *Bauhinia purpurea* can reach up to 20 feet tall and have a 25-foot crown. Leaves are simple, roundish, as broad as long, divided into 2 obtuse lobes, stipules are long triangular, base is cordate. Flowers are showy, beautiful, fragrant and Orchid-like in terminal and axillary corymbose racemes, with triangular bracts. Calyx is hairy, dilated upwards, divided at the apex into 5 short teeth. Petals are oblanceolate, long - clawed, rosy purple with veins. Orchid-Tree has many showy and delightfully fragrant, five-inch-wide blossoms, the narrow purple, pink, and lavender petals arranged to closely resemble an orchid. The petals of Purple orchid tree are narrower and do not overlap. The flowers are followed by slender, linear, flat, brown seedpods which usually persist on the tree throughout the winter.

### **Propagation**

It is mostly propagated from seeds.

### **Soil and Climate**

*Bauhinia purpurea* prefer bright sunlight and moderate humidity for optimum growth. *Bauhinia purpurea* can survive in full sun to partial shade. The plant prefers fertile, well drained but moisture retentive soil and moderate watering.

### **Uses**

They are ideal for planting in home gardens, patios, courtyards etc. They are suitable for planting along avenues and for urban forestry.