Cassia javanica subsp. nodosa
Pink Cassia / Pink shower / Java Cassia / Apple blossom cassia / Nodding Cassia / Rainbow Shower Tree
Family: Fabaceae

Java Cassia or Pink Cassia is native to Indonesia (Java), Malaysia, Thailand and is widely cultivated in the tropical regions of the world. Pink Cassia is a deciduous / semi-deciduous quick growing tree which sheds its leaves during the winter months. It has a straight trunk that reaches to a height of 25m - 40m with drooping branches. Trunk is smooth with pinkish grey bark. It has a hanging or weeping growth habit. The leaves of pink cassia are compound, paripinnate with 5-12 pairs of elliptical or oblong leaflets. Flowers are borne in lateral racemes on short side branches. Inflorescence axis is slender. The flowers of pink cassia vary in colour from pale pink to crimson with yellow coloured stamens and are usually found in open clusters. Sepals are green in colour and ovate. Petals are pinkish in colour and ovate. The seeds of pink cassia are produced in long cylindrical dark brown pods. The seed pods are 45-60cm long, rather smooth, flesh dry and not pulpy. Cassia javanica seed pods turn black on maturity, and remain on the trees for a long time. Seeds are flattened, smooth, shiny brown and 70-80 numbers are seen per pod. The crown of the tree is umbrella shaped.

Flowering Season

In India, Cassia javanica mostly flowers during the months of April to June and sheds its leaves in December.

Soil and Climate

Pink Cassia prefers well drained soil. It grows best in humid and warm regions. It thrives in full sun. It can be given a light pruning once the flowering is over.

Propagation

Cassia javanica can be propagated from seeds.

Uses

When in full bloom stage, Pink cassia can be a spectacular sight, with the tree covered with bright crimson-pink flowers. The ground under the tree can be seen covered with a beautiful carpet of pink flowers towards the end of the flowering season. The tree is highly valued for their beautiful flower display. Because of its beauty and aesthetic value, C. javanica is planted as a shade and ornamental tree on streets and in parks. It is suitable for planting along medium roads, parks and gardens. It is an ideal tree for avenue planting.