



# *Tabebuia heptaphylla* Pink Trumpet Tree<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson<sup>2</sup>

## INTRODUCTION

Pink Trumpet Tree produces a wonderful specimen tree, reaching a height of 50 feet and is covered with terminal panicles of pink to rose-purple, two-inch-wide, showy blossoms in spring (Fig. 1). There are few, if any, other flowering trees which can match the beauty of this tree in bloom! Flowers stand out nicely because there are no leaves on the tree during flowering. They contrast nicely against the light grey bark. The palmately compound leaves bear five leaflets, each about two-and-one-half inches long.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Tabebuia heptaphylla*

**Pronunciation:** tab-eh-BOO-yuh hep-tuh-FILL-uh

**Common name(s):** Pink Trumpet Tree

**Family:** *Bignoniaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 9B through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; shade tree; specimen; residential street tree

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

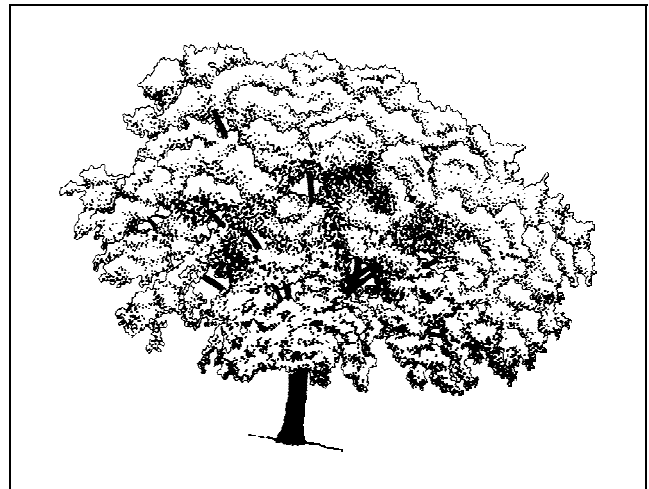


Figure 1. Mature Pink Trumpet Tree.

## DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 40 to 50 feet

**Spread:** 35 to 50 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

**Crown shape:** round; vase shape

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** medium

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** palmately compound

**Leaflet margin:** entire; undulate

**Leaflet shape:** elliptic (oval); oblong

**Leaflet venation:** pinnate

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-615, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1994.
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**Figure 2.** Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous;  
semievergreen

**Leaflet blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** pink

**Flower characteristics:** spring flowering; very showy

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** elongated; pod

**Fruit length:** 6 to 12 inches; 3 to 6 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; no significant litter problem; persistent on the tree; showy

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** grow mostly upright and will not droop; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns

**Pruning requirement:** requires pruning to develop strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** brown

**Current year twig thickness:** medium

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** tree grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic; alkaline; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

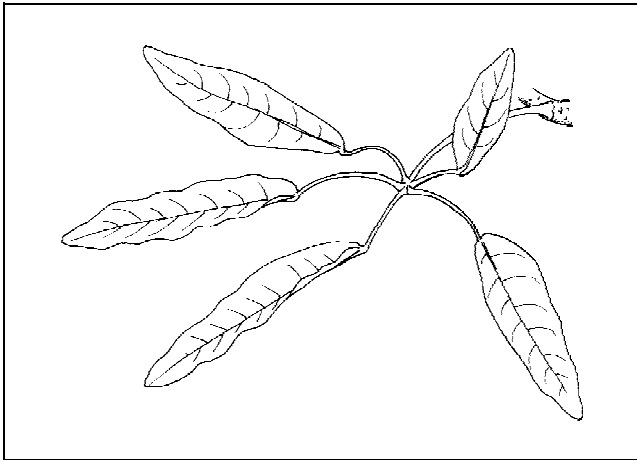
**Other**

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time



**Figure 3.** Foliage of Pink Trumpet Tree.

**Pest resistance:** no pests are normally seen on the tree

### **USE AND MANAGEMENT**

Pink Trumpet Tree would make a nice tree for planting along a boulevard or residential street where there is plenty of soil space for root development. Prune major limbs so they remain about one-half the diameter of the trunk so they remain well secured to the trunk. This is a tree you will want to keep around, once you see it in flower.

Pink Trumpet Tree should be grown in full sun or partial shade on rich, well-drained soil.

Propagation is by seed, cuttings, or layering. Trees flower at an early age.

### **Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases are of major concern.