



BUCHANAN'S

NATIVE PLANTS



Hong Kong Orchid Tree

Bauhinia x blakeana

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 30 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Description:

This tree forms a rounded spreading canopy of large lobed foliage; interesting orchid like lavender-red flowers with white veins in summer and fall; flowers are sterile and will not set seed; an excellent urban landscape tree; prune when young to shape

Ornamental Features

Hong Kong Orchid Tree features showy clusters of fragrant lavender orchid-like flowers with red overtones and white veins at the ends of the branches from mid summer to late fall. It has attractive grayish green foliage. The lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and remain grayish green throughout the winter. The fruit is not ornamentally significant.

Landscape Attributes

Hong Kong Orchid Tree is a multi-stemmed evergreen tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Hong Kong Orchid Tree is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Hong Kong Orchid Tree flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Hong Kong Orchid Tree in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

Hong Kong Orchid Tree will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Hong Kong Orchid Tree is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base and those that spill over the edges. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.