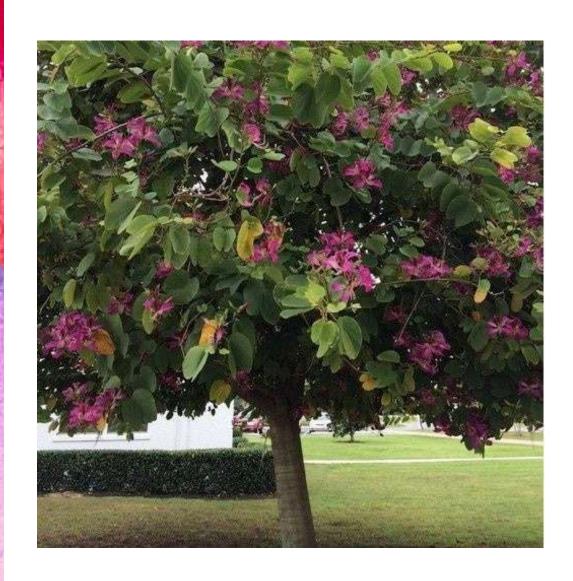
## **BAUHINIA VARIEGATA**



Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Tracheophyta (vascular plants)
Class: Magnoliopsida (flowering plants)

Order: Fabales (bean order)

Family: Fabaceae (legume family)

Subfamily: Cercidoideae (redbud subfamily)

Genus: Bauhinia L.

Species: Bauhinia variegata

The Bauhinia variegata, also commonly known as the orchid tree or mountain ebony, is a species of flowering tree in the legume family, Fabaceae. It is native to an area from China through Southeast Asia to the Indian subcontinent.

## **CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES**

This flowering tree is prized for its beautiful orchid-like blooms and interesting leaves.:

**Habit:** Small to medium-sized, deciduous tree reaching 10–12 meters (33–39 ft) tall

Leaves: Broad, lobed leaves that look like two large, rounded lobes at the base and apex

Flowers: Showy, fragrant, pink or white, orchid-shaped flowers, 8–12 centimetres (3.1–4.7 in) in diameter

Light: Prefers full sun to light shade

Soil: Well-draining soil

Water: Water moderately, allowing the soil to dry slightly between waterings. Avoid overwatering.

**Temperature:** Prefers warm climates, USDA hardiness zones 9B through 11. Protect from frost.

Fertilizer: Fertilize occasionally with a balanced fertilizer during the growing season.

## **USES**

Landscape Tree: The most common use of Bauhinia variegata is as a landscape tree. Its beautiful orchid-like flowers, interesting leaves, and moderate size make it a popular choice for parks, gardens, and streetscapes.

**Bonsai:** Due to its ability to be trained and pruned, Bauhinia variegata can also be cultivated as a bonsai tree.

**Food:** In some regions, the flower buds and young leaves of Bauhinia variegata are consumed as a vegetable. It's important to note that consumption of some Bauhinia species can be harmful, so proper identification and guidance from a local expert is crucial before consuming any part of the plant.

**Traditional Medicine:** In some traditional medicine practices, various parts of Bauhinia variegata are used to treat a variety of ailments. However, there is limited scientific evidence to support these uses, and consulting a healthcare professional is recommended before using any part of the plant medicinally.

**Wood:** The wood of Bauhinia variegata is considered moderately hard and durable. While not a major source of timber, it can be used for local construction, tool handles, and firewood in some areas.