

Delonix regia: The Flame Tree



Kingdom: Plantae
Clade: Angiosperms

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae

Subfamily: Caesalpinioideae

Genus: Delonix

Species: *D. regia*

Delonix regia, commonly known as the Royal Poinciana or Flame Tree, is a captivating tropical tree celebrated for its vibrant, flamboyant flowers. Native to the dry deciduous forests of Madagascar, it has been widely introduced to tropical and subtropical regions worldwide for its ornamental value.

Characteristic Features

Size: A medium sized tree, typically reaching heights of 1520 meters

Leaves: Bipinnate leaves, giving them a delicate, fernlike appearance. They fold together at night or during dry conditions.

Flowers: Large, showy flowers with five bright red or orangered petals. They are clustered in flamboyant displays at the tips of branches.

Fruit: Long, flat, woody pods containing large, hard seeds.

Uses

Ornamental: Primarily cultivated for its stunning floral display. It's a popular choice for gardens, parks, and avenues in tropical regions.

Shade: Provides ample shade due to its spreading canopy.

Soil Improvement: Helps in soil erosion control and nitrogen fixation through its symbiotic relationship with bacteria in root nodules.

Timber: The wood is used for construction, furniture, and fencing, although it's not as widely used as timber from other species.

Medicinal: Some traditional medicinal uses have been reported for various parts of the plant, but scientific research is limited.