

Scientific Name:

Delonix regia

Common Name:

- Flame Tree
- Royal Poinciana
- Flamboyant Tree
- Peacock Flower

Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A large, deciduous tree that can reach heights of 5-12 meters, with a broad, flat-topped crown. The tree has a spreading habit, making it an excellent shade tree.
- **Leaves:** Compound, feathery, and bright green, the leaves are bipinnate and can be up to 40 cm long. Each leaf is composed of numerous small, oval leaflets that are arranged in pairs.
- **Flowers:** The tree is renowned for its stunning display of bright red, orange, or yellow flowers that bloom in large clusters. Each flower has five petals, with the upper petal being larger and often more vibrant. The blooming period typically occurs in late spring to early summer, creating a spectacular visual display.
- **Fruits:** Long, flat, brown pods that can grow up to 60 cm in length. Each pod contains several seeds and can take up to a year to mature after flowering.
- **Bark:** Smooth and light gray when young, the bark becomes rougher and more fissured with age.

Cultural Importance:

- The Flame Tree is commonly planted in tropical and subtropical regions for its beauty and shade. It is often used in landscaping, parks, and roadside plantings.
- In many cultures, the vibrant flowers are associated with joy and celebration. The tree is frequently featured in local folklore and is often planted near schools and community centers.
- In some regions, particularly in Madagascar, the tree is considered sacred and is associated with traditional ceremonies.

Uses:

- **Ornamental:**
 - The primary use of *Delonix regia* is as an ornamental tree due to its stunning and colorful flowers. It is widely planted in parks, gardens, and urban landscapes, providing shade and aesthetic appeal.
 - Its dramatic floral display makes it popular for landscaping in tropical regions.
- **Shade and Shelter:**
 - The broad canopy provides excellent shade, making it a favored choice for planting in areas where shade is needed.

- **Wood:**
 - The wood of the Flame Tree is lightweight and is used for making furniture, small wooden items, and crafts. However, it is not considered very durable.
- **Ecological:**
 - The tree attracts a variety of birds and insects, providing habitat and food sources. The flowers are especially attractive to pollinators such as bees and butterflies.
- **Medicinal:**
 - Traditional medicine uses parts of the tree for various ailments, although specific uses may vary by region. The leaves and flowers have been used in traditional remedies to treat inflammation and fever.

Picture Description:

- **Whole Tree:** A large tree with a broad, flat-topped crown and a sprawling habit. The tree displays clusters of bright red, orange, or yellow flowers during blooming season.
- **Leaves:** Bright green, feathery, bipinnate leaves with numerous small oval leaflets.
- **Flower:** Large, vibrant flowers with five petals, often in bright red or orange hues. The flowers bloom in large clusters.
- **Fruit:** Long, flat, brown pods, containing seeds, which hang from the tree after flowering.
- **Bark:** Smooth, light gray when young, becoming rough and fissured as the tree matures.

