

Scientific Name:

Erythrina variegata

Common Name:

- Coral Tree
- Variegated Coral Tree
- Indian Coral Tree
- Tiger's Claw

Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A medium to large deciduous tree, typically reaching heights of 6-12 meters, with a broad, spreading canopy. The tree has a somewhat irregular shape with a thick trunk.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are trifoliate (composed of three leaflets), large, and typically about 10-20 cm long. They are bright green with a distinctive variegated pattern, often featuring yellow or white margins and a leathery texture.
- **Flowers:** The tree produces striking, tubular, red to orange flowers that grow in clusters. The flowers bloom in large racemes and attract various pollinators, including birds and insects. The flowering season occurs in spring and summer, creating a stunning display.
- **Fruits:** The fruits are cylindrical, pod-like structures that can grow up to 10-15 cm long, containing several seeds. The pods are green when immature and turn brown as they mature.
- **Bark:** The bark is gray and smooth when young, developing a rough, fissured texture as the tree matures.

Cultural Importance:

- In many cultures, *Erythrina variegata* is valued for its beauty and is often planted as an ornamental tree in gardens and parks.
- The tree is sometimes used in traditional medicine in various cultures, where different parts of the tree, such as leaves and bark, are believed to have therapeutic properties.
- In some regions, the flowers are associated with rituals and celebrations, making the tree significant in local customs.

Uses:

- **Ornamental:**
 - The vibrant flowers and attractive foliage make the Coral Tree a popular choice for landscaping and ornamental plantings in gardens and parks.
 - Its striking appearance attracts attention, particularly when in full bloom.
- **Medicinal:**

- Various parts of the tree are used in traditional medicine to treat ailments such as inflammation, pain, and respiratory issues. However, usage varies by region and cultural practices.
- **Culinary:**
 - In some cultures, the flowers and young pods are used in culinary dishes. The young leaves may also be consumed as a vegetable.
- **Ecological:**
 - The tree attracts birds, bees, and butterflies, playing an important role in local ecosystems by providing nectar and habitat.
- **Shade and Shelter:**
 - Its broad canopy provides shade and is often planted in public spaces for cooling effects.

Picture Description:

- **Whole Tree:** A medium to large tree with a broad, spreading canopy and thick trunk, displaying bright red to orange flowers during the blooming season.
- **Leaves:** Large, trifoliate leaves with a glossy green appearance, often featuring variegated yellow or white margins.
- **Flower:** Bright, tubular flowers in clusters, typically red or orange, creating a vibrant display.
- **Fruit:** Cylindrical, pod-like fruits that turn brown when mature, containing several seeds.
- **Bark:** Gray and smooth when young, becoming rough and fissured as the tree matures.

