

Scientific Name:

Thespesia populnea

Common Name:

- Portia Tree
- Tropical Wood Tree
- Indian Tulip Tree

Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A medium-sized evergreen or deciduous tree that typically grows to a height of 5-12 meters, with a spreading crown and thick, sturdy trunk. It can have a somewhat irregular shape, especially in coastal areas.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are large, alternate, and heart-shaped, measuring about 10-20 cm long and 8-15 cm wide. They are dark green and glossy on the upper surface and paler underneath, with a smooth margin. The leaves have prominent veins and a leathery texture.
- **Flowers:** The flowers are large, showy, and trumpet-shaped, measuring about 5-8 cm in diameter. They are usually yellow with a reddish-purple center and bloom throughout the year, attracting bees and other pollinators. The flowers open in the morning and fade by the afternoon.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a woody capsule that is about 3-5 cm long, containing several seeds. The capsule splits open when mature, releasing the seeds.
- **Bark:** The bark is grayish-brown, rough, and fibrous, often developing fissures with age.

Cultural Importance:

- *Thespesia populnea* is culturally significant in various tropical regions, especially in India and the Pacific Islands. It is often planted for shade and as an ornamental tree.
- In some cultures, the tree is associated with traditional practices and used in rituals.

Uses:

- **Ornamental:**
 - The tree is widely planted for its attractive flowers and as a shade tree in parks and gardens.
- **Medicinal:**
 - Various parts of the tree, including leaves and flowers, are used in traditional medicine for their anti-inflammatory and healing properties.
- **Wood:**

- The wood is durable and resistant to decay, making it suitable for construction, furniture, and boat building. It is also used for making tools and utensils.
- **Aromatic:**
 - The flowers are sometimes used for making leis and garlands due to their pleasant fragrance.

Picture Description:

- **Whole Tree:** A medium-sized tree with a spreading crown, thick trunk, and showy yellow flowers.
- **Leaves:** Large, heart-shaped leaves measuring about 10-20 cm long, dark green and glossy on top with a paler underside.
- **Flower:** Large, trumpet-shaped flowers, typically yellow with a reddish-purple center, measuring about 5-8 cm in diameter.
- **Fruit:** Woody capsules about 3-5 cm long that split open when mature to release several seeds.
- **Bark:** Rough, grayish-brown bark that is fibrous and develops fissures with age

