



Expanding Tree Diversity in Hawai'i's Landscapes: Colville's Glory, *Colvillea racemosa*

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Discovered by botanist Wenceslas Bojer in 1824 on the island of Madagascar, Colville's Glory honors Sir Charles Colville, governor of Mauritius. It is a medium-sized tree, growing up to 50 feet tall with a mature crown diameter of 35–40 feet, that blooms profusely in the fall and adds brilliant color to any landscape. The fine, feathery, fern-like appearance of the deciduous foliage is also an eye-catcher.

Recommended Use in Landscapes

- Color/accent specimen tree
- Shade or street tree
- Public open space or courtyard

Distribution

- Discovered in Madagascar; now distributed in many tropical and sub-tropical areas

Propagation Techniques

- Propagated from seed
- Seed pods will open more readily if soaked in warm water overnight.
- After extraction from the seed pod, seeds can be soaked in water overnight. Start by boiling water, and after removal from the heat source, immerse seeds, leaving them as water cools.

Cultural Requirements and Tolerance

- Wind tolerant
- Moderately salt and drought tolerant
- Full sun
- Rich, well-drained soil



Flower and Fruit Characteristics

- 18-inch racemes
- Blooms in the fall
- Striking orange/yellow flowers
- Large, flat oblong seed pods

Leaf Characteristics

- Twice-pinnately compound
- 1–2 feet long with 15–25 pairs of pinnae
- ¼- to ½-inch elliptic-oblong leaflets
- Fine, fern-like appearance and texture

Advantages for Use in Landscapes

- Fall flowering
- Showy flowers
- Alternative to royal poinciana
- Weed Risk Assessment score: -8

Disadvantages for Use in Landscapes

- Branches on which flowers are borne die back and fall to ground
- Can take 7–10 years before blooming
- Surface roots can develop and cause problems for mowing, though this is not as severe a problem as for royal poinciana.

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