



Expanding Tree Diversity in Hawai'i's Landscapes: Hispaniolan Rosy Trumpet Tree, *Tabebuia berteroi*

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The Hispaniolan rosy trumpet tree is native to the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, where it grows in a variety of habitats. It reaches a height of 35+ feet with a columnar shape, reaching about 20 feet in canopy diameter at maturity. It is moderate in its growth rate and produces a dense, dark green crown.

Recommended Use in Landscapes

- Shade tree
- Narrow planting strips
- Street tree
- Residences

Distribution

- Native to low-elevation (1100–1500 m broad-leaf forests on the island of Hispaniola (Haiti, Santo Domingo)

Propagation Techniques

- Seed is short-lived; sow with shallow covering; rapid germination
- Cuttings: matured terminal with 2500–3000 ppm rooting hormone
- Root suckers: handle as with cuttings
- Air-layering: choose upright, matured basal shoots

Cultural Requirements and Tolerance

- Full to partial sun
- Establishes well with well-drained, loose soils; tolerates heavy soils
- Prune to shape; remove narrow crotch branches



Flower and Fruit Characteristics

- Flowers about 1 to 1¼ inches across by 1½ to 2 inches long
- Pale magenta to white
- Few flowers per cluster
- Fruit: narrow pod 3 to 6 inches long, covered with scaly hairs

Leaf Characteristics

- Compound leaf with 3 to 5 leaflets
- Leaflets to about 2½ inches long, smaller than the more common pink tecoma (*T. heterophylla*)
- Upper surface: dull, dark green, leathery
- Lower surface: whitish with many scales
- Evergreen

Advantages for Use in Landscapes

- In flower throughout the year
- Not too messy in terms of leaf and fruit shedding
- Compact habit
- Few pests
- HPWRA: -4

Disadvantages for Use in Landscapes

- Narrow branch crotch angles can split in strong winds.
- Some surface roots, but not aggressive
- Some twig dieback can be unsightly.

