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## *Bauhinia x blakeana*

Hong Kong Orchid Tree

**Fabaceae**

Flower Display: A+



Fort Myers, Florida

Late November



Fort Myers, Florida

Mid November



Fort Myers, Florida

Mid December

The sweet fragrance alone may entice you to grow *B. x blakeana*. But you'll also be taken by its large rose-purple flowers and a distinctively long flowering days of about 4 months, far longer than most other flowering trees. *B. x blakeana* is oft reported as a natural hybrid of *B. variegata* and *B. purpurea*. However, such a progeny has never been duplicated. *B. x blakeana* is sterile and produces no seedpods, further adding to its desirability. It must be produced by grafting, and not from cuttings. The flowers are hummingbird attractants. Flowers are

produced on new growth at the end of long, slightly arching branches. They fall freely during the flowering season to be replaced by fresh blooms waiting in buds on tight racemes. The fallen petals make an attractive groundcover, or a messy litter, depending on ones point of view. Toward the end of the flowering season, the flower display occasionally wanes, as if to signal the end, but readily picks back up a day or so later. After flowering, *B x blakeana* is semi-deciduous on irrigated soils and is completely but briefly deciduous on dry soils. Leaves will also fall because of cold winter temperatures. Plant it in full sun or light shade. A young tree can be slow to start, and can be open and awkward. The mature tree has a short trunk, dense canopy, and brittle branches.

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Proper pruning, to remove crossing branches, and to develop a pleasing canopy, can be done in the summer. *B. x blakeana* responds well to pruning. A tree pruned as late as August will still produce abundant flowers on schedule in November. Interveinal chlorosis occurs on alkaline soils. Fertilize it in March, June and September to keep leaves healthy and green. *B. x blakeana* is becoming a useful tree in many gated communities.



Fort Myers, Florida

Late December

**Leaves:** Simple, alternate, broadly ovate, bilobed, notched To 1/4—1/2 its length, up to 8 inches wide  
**Flowers:** Rose-purple to orchid pink, five-petals, open funnellform 5 to 6 inches wide, five sterile stamens; a few to about 20 flowers on terminal auxiliary racemes  
**Fruits:** Not produced



Fort Myers, Florida

Late November

***Bauhinia x blakeana***

**Incorrect:** None Found

**Origin:** Hong Kong

**Zone:** 9b-12b, 26°F

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Flowering Month(s):** Late October—March

**Flowering Days:** 119

**Leaf Persistence:** Semi-Deciduous or Deciduous

**Messiness:** High, December—February

**Salt Tolerance:** Medium

**Drought Tolerance:** High

**Nutritional Requirements:** Medium

**Typical Dimension:** 30' x25'

**Uses:** Garden, Park, Parking lot, Shade, Streetscape

[Tropical Flowering Trees List](#)

Questions/Comments:

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