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Tabebuia heterophylla

Pink Trumpet Tree, White Cedar, Roble, Roble Blanco

Bignoniaceae

Flower Display: B+



Naples, Florida

Late April



Late March

This is probably the most variable of all species of *Tabebuia*. Its pattern of variation includes both flowering and leaf variations. Most *T. heterophylla* are adequate to excellent bloomers, but a small minority are inept bloomers. The intensity and duration of flowering varies considerably from tree to tree. Poor bloomers remain poor bloomers. Excellent bloomers remain strong flowerers, but their flowering schedule may vary from year to year. For many trees, flowering may persist on and off during the year, but the best display occurs in March or April. At that time, flowering usually occurs with varying degrees of foliage retention, with the best displays being on leafless trees. Once flowering begins in earnest, a carpet of pink petals quickly gathers beneath the tree, and may rival in beauty the color above it. Some *T. heterophylla* have dark-green, oblong leaves, and a crown that narrows at the top.



Leaves: Palmate, opposite, 6-12 inches long, with mostly 3-5 leathery, elliptic to obovate leaflets

Flowers: Funnelform, upper-half pink or lavender, rarely white, bottom-half crème colored, yellow throat fades to white, to 3 inches long on terminal panicles

Fruits: Capsules, narrow, linear-cylindric, green, to 8 inches long and 0.4 inches wide

Tabebuia hetrophylla

Incorrect: *Bignonia pallida*, *T. pentaphyllia*
Tecoma pentaphylla, *Raputia hetrophylla*

Origin: Bahamas and the Caribbean

Zone: 10a – 12b, 30°F minimum

Growth Rate: Medium

Flowering Month(s): Mid March - April and sporadic throughout the year.

Flowering Days: 17

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen, semi-deciduous or briefly deciduous

Messiness: Medium

Salt Tolerance: High

Drought Tolerance: High

Nutritional Requirements: Medium

Typical Dimension: 25'x20'

Uses: Garden, Park, Parking Lot, Seaside, Screen, Streetscape



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Other trees have lighter green and very glossy obovate leaves, with a more rounded crown. One could erroneously conclude that these are two separate species. *T. hetrophylla* has very high salt tolerance. On more than one island in the Caribbean, I've seen it growing on beaches subjected to high tides. The species does have its problems. *Tabebuia* thrips distort the leaves. Leafhoppers cause the leaves of severely water-stressed trees to have a silvery cast that may cause leaf loss. On occasions, caterpillars chew on the leaves, and in late winter, in colder areas, the leaves develop large black discolorations, that quickly disappear in early spring. In most cases, the trees can be planted without much concern. However, check with the Extension Service in your area to be sure that these problems are manageable.

[Tropical Flowering Trees List](#)

Questions/Comments:

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Thrip damage, Cape Coral, Florida

Mid February

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