

IFAS EXTENSION

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Spathodea campanulata

African Tulip Tree, Flame-of-the-Forest

Bignoniaceae

Flower Display: B+



Valle de Angeles, Honduras

Early October

African Tulip Tree

Incorrect: Bignonia tulipifera, Spathodea nilotica

Origin: Tropical West and Central Africa

Zone: 10a-12b, 32°F minimum

Growth Rate: Fast

Flowering Month(s): Intermittently from March to

December

Flowering Days: Not determined

Leaf Persistence: Under drought conditions briefly

deciduous after flowering

Messiness: High when flowering

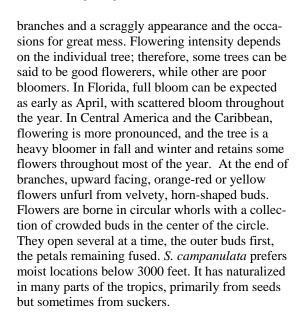
Salt Tolerance: Medium Drought Tolerance: High Nutritional Requirements: Low Typical Dimension: 40'x 30' Uses: Garden, Park, Shade

When torn by strong winds, this handsome tree loses much of its form and beauty. Under that condition and when grown close to competing trees or against tall buildings, Spathodea. campanulata develops a rather erect appearance. Its most beautiful form is attained when it is given plenty of growing room and is not troubled by punishing winds. Under those conditions, it becomes a wide spreading tree, with an umbrella-like crown, heavily laden with striking flowers. Large in stature, its roots can damage sidewalks and driveways, and disrupt mowing. Despite this, it is a common street tree in heavily concreted Tegulsigalpa, Honduras. Notwithstanding its brittleness, and susceptibility to wind damage, S. campanulata is easy to maintain. When stripped down to its trunk by strong winds, even the most badly damaged tree quickly recovers. Regular pruning will reduce the incidence of breakage. Insufficient water causes excessive leaf loss, bare



Tegulsigalpa, Honduras Notice the repaired pavement

Early October



Tropical Flowering Trees List Questions/Comments: Email: brownsh@leegov.com



Fort Myers, Florida

Late April



Fort Myers, Florida

Late May

Leaves: Odd-pinnate, opposite, with 13 - 17 opposite elliptic leaflets **Flowers:** Campanulate, claw-shaped, crinkled orange-red to scarlet or yellow petals, with 4 pale yellow stamens and dark brown anthers, located on terminal racemes

Fruits: Capsules, lance or boat-shaped on stout stalks. Splits open on one side revealing papery seeds

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