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Tabebuia impetiginosa

Purple Trumpet Tree, Ipe, Purple Lapacho, Pau D'Arco

Bignoniaceae

Flower Display: A+



Golden Gates Estate, Florida

Mid February

Once you've seen a *T. impetiginosa* in full bloom, you'll be back for more. Stand under a flowering tree and look straight up. You'll see a leafless tree packed with clusters of congested terminal inflorescences held on a linear plane. The funnel-shaped flowers are magenta with a canary-yellow streak made even more spectacular by penetrating sun-rays. It is truly a spectacular sight. With its several variations, the species can begin flowering as early as November and as late as March. However, more commonly, the 21 flowering days occurs in February or March. Flowering time is about a month before that of *T. aurea*. After flowering, long, glossy pods will hang on the untidy trees for some weeks; some hanging discreetly into the next flowering season. Foliage drops with temperature under 40°F, or just before flowering. Leafless branches quickly regain foliage after flowering. The leaves are somewhat

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Tampa, Florida

Late February



Edison & Ford Winter Estates, Fort Myers, FL

Mid November

Tabebuia impetiginosa

Incorrect: *T. avellanadae*, *T. palmeri*,
T. ipe, *T. nicaraguensis*,
Tecoma impetiginosa

Origin: Guatemala to Brazil and
Paraguay

Zone: 9a—12b, 22°F

Growth Rate: Fast

Flowering Days: 21

Flowering Month(s): January—March,
November (fall) on some very few trees

Leaf Persistence: Deciduous when
Flowering

Messiness: High when flowering

Salt Tolerance: Medium

Drought Tolerance: High

Nutritional Requirements: Medium

Typical Dimension: 30' x 25'

Uses: Garden, Park, Shade, Streetscape,
Specimen

Fort Myers, Florida

Mid March



Leaves: Palmate, opposite, 5-7 ovate to elliptic leaflets, entire or slightly and irregularly serrate in upper half

Flowers: Funnelform, flaring mouth, magenta, yellow throat fades to purplish, to 3 inches long on tight terminal panicles

Fruits: Capsules, elongate-cylindrical, smooth, dehiscent, to 22 inches long, 1 inch wide

[Tropical Flowering Trees List](#)

Questions/Comments:

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shiny, dark green above and paler below. When properly formed, the straight trunk divides into many erect branches supporting a medium-domed, vase-shaped crown. The grayish bark is relatively smooth with shallow vertical furrows. Young trees may grow about 4 feet per year but at about 20 feet, growth slows considerably. Trees about 9 feet tall are satisfactory bloomers. Early blooming causes forking of trunk. Manganese and iron deficiencies may show up on alkaline soils. High pH soil may even induce leaf and flower bud drops. *T. impetiginosa* responds quickly to fertilizer application. Fertilize it once a year, after flowering. It has moderate wind tolerance and little tolerance to wind-blown salt. Plant this tree to attract attention. It looks great lining a formal driveway, or in mixed borders.