

CAESALPINIA PULCHERRIMA L. - PRIDE OF BARBADOS

Synonym

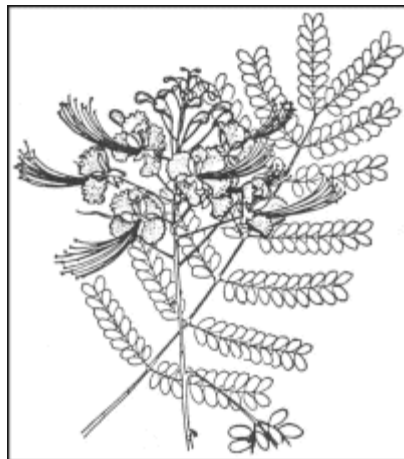
Poinciana pulcherrima, Poinciana bijuga.

Common name

Pride of Barbados, dwarf Poinciana, red bird of paradise, krere - krere, Barbados flower - fence, peacock flower, tabachin, tabaquin.

Family

Caesalpinaceae and Fabaceae.



Overview

A small evergreen perennial shrub or tree, from the West Indies, 10 - 15 feet high with alternate, bi-pinnate leaves. The stem and branches are armed with spines. The red, orange, yellow and pink flowers grow at the end of the prickly branches.

Master Gardener Note: mine do not have prickly branches

This small, graceful tree flowers throughout the year and is a beautiful garden plant.

Pride of Barbados has beautiful bowl - shaped flowers in the colors red, orange, orange - red and yellow.

Master Gardener Note: The yellow variety is often called yellow bird of paradise.

The fruits are legumes, 3 - 4" long; when ripe they split open and release the brown bean.

*Master Gardener Note: The variety of pride of Barbados with red flowers is also called **red bird of paradise**, while the yellow species is called **Phoenix bird of paradise**.*

Closely related is the yellow bird of paradise (Caesalpinia gilliesii) which has yellow flowers with long red stamens. (I think this must be mine)

Suriname's traditional medicine

The leaves are purgative and used against kidney stones, malarial fever and bronchitis.

Flavonoids isolated from this plant possess anti-inflammatory activities; the flavonoid of quercetin has antiviral activity.

Pride of Barbados exhibit a broad spectrum of antimicrobial activity, particularly against Escherichia coli (enteropathogen), Proteus vulgaris, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Staphylococcus aureus.

The root and stem seem to be cytotoxic.

Hardiness

USDA zone 8 - 11.

Propagation

Seeds and cuttings (For details about germination, go to [\(ISHS\)](#)).

Culture

Full sun, well drained, alkaline to acidic soil. Barbados flower-fence is tolerant to drought.

Dwarf Poinciana is winter hardy to 30°F., although it can survive temperatures down to 20°F. Frost is a hazard to the young plant .

Master Gardener Note: The Yellow bird of Paradise can withstand temperatures as low as 10° F.

Both are deciduous alt these low temperatures and both can withstand drought very well.

This decorative flowering tree is widely planted in South Florida.

In cooler climates it can be grown as an annual.

Mexican Bird of Paradise

Scientific Name: *Caesalpinia mexicana* A. Gray

Synonym: *Poinciana mexicana*, *Poincianella mexicana*

Family: *Fabaceae*



Recommended Temperature Zone:

sunset: 12-16,18-23

USDA: 9-10

Frost Tolerance: Hardy to 20°F (-7°C)

Sun Exposure: Full sun

Origin: Northeastern Mexico

Growth Habits: Evergreen large shrub or small tree, fast growing 10 to 15 feet (3-4.5 m) or more, 6 to 15 feet wide (1.8-4.5 m); bi-pinnate leaves with 5 or 7 pinnae, each with 4 or 5 pairs of leaflets; no spines

Watering Needs: Infrequent deep watering, needs good drainage

Propagation: Seeds

Mexican Birds of Paradise bloom all year except for coldest month. Seeds are toxic. Moderate littering.

Cultural Practices:

Plant in spring 6 feet apart. Trim anytime for compactness.

Blooming Habits:

Fruiting Habits:

Propagation:

The Mexican Bird of Paradise has yellow fragrant flowers on 3 to 6 inches long racemes (7.5-15 cm), mostly in summer, but year around if the climate is favorable.