

Insert as an Additional Taxon For *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*:

Delonix regia (W. Bojer ex W. Hooker) C. Rafinesque-Schmaltz
(*Poinciana regia*)

Royal Poinciana

- C *Delonix regia* is also known as Fancy-Anna, Flamboyant Tree; Flame Tree, Flame-Of-The-Forest, Framboyan, Gul Mohur, or Peacock Flower; Royal Poinciana is a truly tropical tree that should be used only in USDA zones 10 and 11, but its handsome flowers tempts gardeners to plant it in zone 9 where it is frequently damaged by low temperatures; in the tropics, this 30Nto 40Ntall tree develops a spreading dome-shaped to flat-topped crown which is usually substantially wider than tall; trees resemble a small statured version of a mature Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) in habit, but with a smoother lighter colored bark; the large 1Nto 2Nlong dark green bipinnately compound leaves may each contain as many as 20 pairs of pinnae bearing a total of perhaps a 1000 tiny ¼Olong leaflets.
- C The corymbose racemes of flowers on this taxon are fantastic and have led to claims by several authors that this species is perhaps the “most gorgeous tree in cultivation”; five spatulate-shaped petals are more arranged in a windmill fashion around ten red to yellow-green stamen; the petals are sometimes referred to as claw-shaped; the stamens are noticeable, but not as prominent a component of the flower as with *Caesalpinia spp.*; the upper or standard petal is larger then the other four and on the species type it is white flecked red with yellow at the base; a variant bearing light yellow petals with a white and yellow standard and a clone with all white petals are sometimes encountered; the red to red-orange flowers from which the name Flame Tree is derived are the most common flower colors; in subtropical climates, bloom occurs from late spring to summer; climates with pronounced alternating dry and wet seasons tend to result in the most vigorous bloom in tropical regions; trees exhibit a modest five year or more juvenile period when seed propagated, thus grafted plants derived from mature flowering clones will ensure quicker bloom in the landscape; fruit are large 1Nto 2½Nby 2Owide flattened woody pods.
- C This species is one of the more popular trees in tropical landscapes, but is only of marginal use even in the warmest areas or our region such as the lower Rio Grande Valley; *Delonix regia* is sometimes considered to be a messy tree due to the numerous spent flowers, shed leaves, twigs, and fruit, but this shortcoming is oft forgiven when flowering is experienced; trees are fast growing and in most regions considered relatively pest and disease-free, however, Friend (1942) reports damage from Huisache girdlers in the lower Rio Grande Valley; avoid planting near drainage and water lines as the roots of this species are aggressive; this vigorous root growth may result in excessive circling root development in nurseries, thus special root pruning containers may produce superior transplants with *D. regia*.
- C *Delonix regia* is native to the island of Madagascar; the genus name derives from the Greek words for conspicuous (delos) and claw (onux) alluding to the petals; the specific epithet means royal or princely.