

Botanical Name: Chorisia speciosa

Common Name: Floss Silk Tree

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, mostly single-trunk tree, with primary branches and trunk studded with large spines; trunk/branches are green-gray; plant becomes massive, developing large rounded to oval canopy

Height 20-40' (60') Spread 2/3 to equal Growth Rate moderate-slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun (no flowering develops in shade)

Soil well-draining, moist soils preferable; tolerates most

Hardiness some frost (zones 15-24); flowers damaged below freezing

Morphology:

Leaves palmately compound, alternate; has 5-7 (9) elliptic-ovovate leaflets; each leaflet is 2-4" long with serrate margins

Flowers pink-to-rose colored, very large, showy, somewhat resembling a hibiscus in having a large pistil; wavy petals

Fruit Capsule to 8" long; silky seed floss used in pillows

Propagation: seed (collect after fruit opens)

Usage: a very distinctive large accent tree, used for its unusual form and showy flowers; suitable for tropical or subtropical landscapes; is very messy and shallow-rooted.

Landscape Care:

Watering regular is preferred; reduce watering during late summer-early fall for more flowers; tolerates some drought after established

Fertilizing balanced, in spring; check for chlorosis

Pruning very little; branches tend to die back if pruned

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions

Origin: So. Amer. Family: Bombacaceae