

Botanical Name: Brachychiton acerifolius

Common Name: Australian Flame Tree

Type of Plant: Dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, single-trunked tree, with ascending-spreading branches forming a dense, pyramidal canopy when young; the canopy becomes more rounded with age

Height 30-60' (90') Spread 1/2-3/4 Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoor full sun preferred; tolerates partial at inland locations

Soil deep loam preferred; tolerates poorer soils

Hardiness some frost (zones 16-21, 23); thrives in warm coast

Morphology:

Leaves variable; some appear pinnate - symmetrical, oval or ovate; others are palmate, 3-7 lobed; alternate, 6-12" long, shiny green

Flowers scarlet red, 1/2"-1" diameter, in showy terminal clusters

Fruit a large, leathery, dark brownish-black follicle; 2-4" long

Propagation: seed

Usage: primarily valued as a shade tree; used as an accent tree

for its flowers and glossy leaves

Landscape Care:

Watering regular (with good drainage); prefers only an occasional deep soak in heavy soils

Fertilizing balanced, in spring

Pruning little is required; to shape as needed

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions

Origin: Australia Family: Sterculiaceae