

Botanical Name: Erythrina lysistemon (Erythrina princeps)

Common Name: Lucky bean tree

Type of Plant: dicot:tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a mostly single-trunked, irregular plant, with sturdy
primary branches forming an open rounded canopy which may become flat-topped
with age; the plant develops conspicuous black thorns on the younger branches

Height 25' - 50' Spread equal Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun

Soil a well-draining sandy loam is preferred

Hardiness some frost (zones 21-24): grows best in mild coastal-
climate areas

Morphology:

Leaves trifoliate, alternate, 8"-12"(15") long; the leaflets are
deltoid-ovate, with an aristate apex, 2"-4" long; the petioles are 6"-10" long,
unarmed

Flowers bright salmon-orange, tubular, sickle-shaped; 1"-2" long,
in mostly terminal 6"-12" long spikes; fall-late winter

Fruit a pod; 3" long, dark brown, flat, not strongly constricted
between the seeds

Propagation: seed or semi-hardwood cuttings

Usage: a medium to large accent tree, valued for its flower
display and attractive form; excellent for subtropical-tropical style land-
scape; can be used as a large lawn tree; has an aggressive root system

Landscape Care:

Watering regular is required; the plant is not very drought tolerant

Fertilizing as needed; check for chlorosis in heavily irrigated adobe
soil locations

Pruning head high and develop a widespreading scaffold structure;
thin out as needed to enhance the overall appearance

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions

Origin: S. Africa Family: Fabaceae