

Tabebuia rosea

roble, May flower, apamate

(Bertol.) DC.

Bignoniaceae

LOCAL NAMES

English (rosy trumpet tree, pink poui); Spanish (roble, ocobo, macuelizo, Gauyacan rosado, flormorado); Trade name (roble, May flower, apamate)

BOTANIC DESCRIPTION

Tabebuia rosea is a medium to large-sized deciduous tree up to 25 m high.

Flowers purplish-pink to nearly white, up to 8 cm long.

Fruit a linear dehiscent capsule containing many winged seeds.

The generic name is after the Brazilian local name for *Tabebuia serratifolia*.

BIOLOGY

The principal flush of shoot growth takes place during the early rainy season and is completed within 2-3 months. The small, terminal flower buds of new shoots remain dormant for several months. When leaves begin to abscise during the dry season, flower buds swell and the large, pink flowers open. Frequently, leaves in the upper part of the tree crown fall earlier than those in the lower part, and flowers open 1st on the bare upper branches. Fruits develop during the months following anthesis, often simultaneously with the emergence of new shoots.



T. rosea, tree in flower in pasture, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. (David Boshier)



T. rosea, tree in mass flower, Choluteca, Honduras. (David Boshier)

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ECOLOGY

In Sri Lanka it does not thrive in dry districts at sea level. The branches are easily broken by strong winds.

BIOPHYSICAL LIMITS

Altitude: Up to 1 200 m; Mean annual rainfall: 1 250- 2 500 mm; Mean annual temperature: 22-27 deg C.

Soil type: T. rosea grows well in deep rich soil.

DOCUMENTED SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Native: Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guadeloupe, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Venezuela

Exotic: Ghana, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda



The map above shows countries where the species has been planted. It does neither suggest that the species can be planted in every ecological zone within that country, nor that the species can not be planted in other countries than those depicted. Since some tree species are invasive, you need to follow biosafety procedures that apply to your planting site.

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PRODUCTS

Timber: *T. rosea* yields an excellent timber.

SERVICES

Ornamental: This is one of the most common and showy of the flowering trees of the New World tropics and sub-tropics.

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TREE MANAGEMENT

T. rosea is fast growing, especially when young. Trees withstand a limited amount of pruning but not pollarding. In Sri Lanka, early growth is faster than that of any other ornamental tree used in the country, reaching a height of over 9 m in about 3 years at Colombo. Where conditions are not favourable, bark-burst has been observed. The lifespan is about 50 years.

GERMPLASM MANAGEMENT

Seed storage behaviour is intermediate; seeds tolerate desiccation to 7.1% mc (99% germination), storage temperature of 5 deg. C; viability is maintained for 30 months in hermetic air-dry storage at 10 deg. C. There are about 42 000 seeds/kg.

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FURTHER READING

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SUGGESTED CITATION

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