

*Spathodea campanulata* (*S. nilotica*)

Bignoniaceae

East, Central and West Africa

**English:** Flame of the forest, Nandi flame, African tulip tree

**Ecology:** An attractive flowering tree now widely planted in the tropical belt as an ornamental although it may be bare for many months, 0–2,000 m. It grows best in forest soil with good rainfall but is drought-resistant once established. In Zambia, it is a common tree of parks and gardens and along streets.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, shade, **ornamental**.

**Description:** A handsome deciduous tree usually to 10 m; branching, the crown dense and shady. **BARK:** smooth, pale grey-brown with buttresses at the base. **LEAVES:** compound, to 40 cm long, 3–6 pairs leaflets and a central leaflet, each one oval and pointed to 12 cm, yellow-green, yellow-hairy below. Young shoots, buds and branchlets have yellow-brown hairs. **FLOWERS:** fiery orange-red, clusters stand out all over the tree, a yellow edge on the red petals. Hairy buds contain watery liquid. **FRUIT:** brown woody capsules to 25 cm, split on the ground setting free many small winged seeds.

**Propagation:** Seedlings.

**Seed:** Good seed germination rate. No. of seeds per kg: ±150,000.

**treatment:** Not necessary.

**storage:** Seed does not store well; it should be sown fresh.

**Management:** Coppicing.

**Remarks:** Not browsed by domestic animals.

