

# *Handroanthus heptaphyllus*: Pink Trumpet Tree<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

Pink trumpet tree produces a wonderful specimen tree, reaching a height of 50 feet and is covered with terminal panicles of pink to rose-purple, two-inch-wide, showy blossoms in spring. There are few, if any, other flowering trees which can match the beauty of this tree in bloom! Flowers stand out nicely because there are no leaves on the tree during flowering. They contrast nicely against the light grey bark. The palmately compound leaves bear five leaflets, each about two-and-one-half inches long.



Figure 1. Mature *Handroanthus heptaphyllus*: pink trumpet tree.  
Credits: Ed Gilman, UF/IFAS

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Handroanthus heptaphyllus*

**Pronunciation:** hand-ro-ANTH-us hep-tuh-FILL-us

**Common name(s):** Pink trumpet tree

**Family:** *Bignoniaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 9B through 11 (Figure 2)

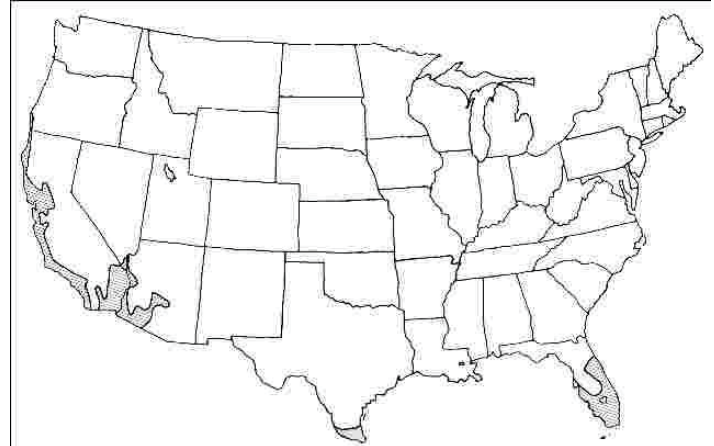


Figure 2. Range.  
Credits: UF/IFAS

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** not considered a problem species at this time, may be recommended (North, Central, South)

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**Uses:** specimen; street without sidewalk; parking lot island < 100 sq ft; parking lot island 100–200 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; tree lawn 4–6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; highway median; shade

## Description

**Height:** 40 to 50 feet

**Spread:** 35 to 50 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical

**Crown shape:** round, vase

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** medium

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Figure 3)

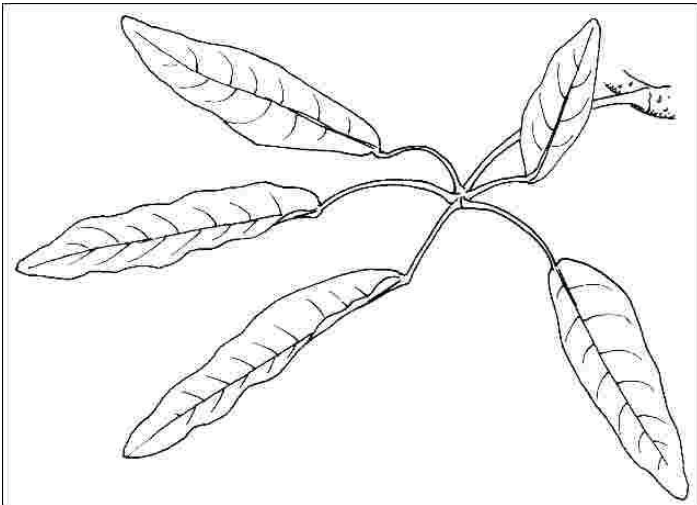


Figure 3. Foliage  
Credits: UF/IFAS

**Leaf type:** palmately compound

**Leaf margin:** entire, undulate

**Leaf shape:** oblong, elliptic (oval)

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** semi-evergreen, deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** pink

**Flower characteristics:** very showy

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** pod or pod-like, elongated

**Fruit length:** 3 to 6 inches, 6 to 12 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches don't droop; not showy; typically one trunk; thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needed for strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** brown

**Current year twig thickness:** medium

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

## Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** unknown

## Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** no

**Outstanding tree:** yes

**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** unknown

**Pest resistance:** free of serious pests and diseases

## Use and Management

Pink trumpet tree would make a nice tree for planting along a boulevard or residential street where there is plenty of soil space for root development. Prune major limbs so they remain about one-half the diameter of the trunk so they remain well secured to the trunk. This is a tree you will want to keep around, once you see it in flower.

Pink trumpet tree should be grown in full sun or partial shade on rich, well-drained soil.

Propagation is by seed, cuttings, or layering. Trees flower at an early age.

## Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

## Literature Cited

University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. 2018. "Assessment of Non-native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas" (<https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu>, 4/29/2019) Gainesville, FL, 32611-4000, USA.