

Spathodea campanulata

Botanical name: *Spathodea campanulata*

Common name: African Tulip Tree, rugtoora

Morphological characters:

African Tulip Tree is a large tree that can reach 50 ft in height. The pinnate leaves grow to 40 cm (16 in) long and they are bronze in color when young, turning deep glossy-green at maturity. This is one of the nicest blooming trees in the world. Large clusters of velvety, bronze-green, kidney-shaped buds are produced at the ends of the branches. Then, the flared, funnel shaped flowers appear in 8 to 10 cm long racemes on the tips of the branches, all over the tree. The flowers are large, brilliant red-orange (yellow in some cultivars) in color and with crinkled margins. Flowering is both conspicuous and dramatic, with football-sized flower clusters produced at the ends of every branch during warm weather. These unusual flower clusters are composed of many velvety brown claw-like buds that split open vertically as the five-inch-long, broadly trumpet-shaped flowers emerge in succession. Fully expanded, the mature flowers are elaborately scalloped and picoteed, and the flower color is typically an intense red orange.



Growing season and type:

1. The tree blooms throughout the year but only a few flowers open at a time.
2. The unopened flowers contain water inside, which the birds are drinking.
3. The fruit is a long pod, up to 45 cm long (18 in.) that breaks open when they fall from the tree.
4. The African tulip tree grows to perfection in the cooler tropical climates of the world, where it is evergreen and ever-blooming.
5. Intolerant of much frost (especially as a young plant), it is nearly evergreen in our mildest coastal climates, but typically deciduous farther inland where winters are cooler.



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1. Flower of *Spathodea campanulata*



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2. Leaves of *Spathodea campanulata*



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3. *Spathodea campanulata* tree

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spathodea>