

Bauhinia variegata

ORCHID TREE

Fabaceae

Common Synonyms: *Phanera variegata*

FLEPPC Category: 1

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

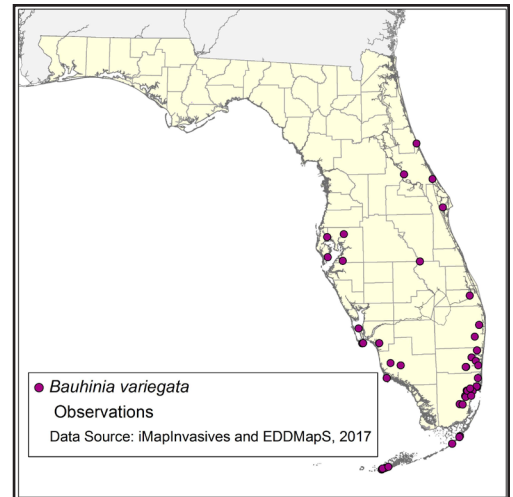
IFAS Assessment

North	OK
Central	CAUTION
South	INVASIVE

USDA Hardiness Zone: 9a-11

Growth Habit: Shrub or tree

Origin: Eastern Asia (India, China)



Description: Semi-deciduous tree up to 15 m tall. Leaves alternate, petioles up to 3 cm long, thin, cleft at apex with two rounded lobes. Blades have 11-13 veins extended from heart-shaped or round base. Showy flowers with fragrance, in multi-flowered clusters at or near stem tips. Flowering during early spring (January-February) during leaf-fall. Flowers are 5 petaled, with overlapping petals, magenta to indigo, with dark red and yellow on upper petal, and 5 stamens. Fruit flat, oblong pod with 10-15 seeds, 30 cm long.

Similar species include purple orchid tree (*Bauhinia purpurea*) which flowers in the fall before leaf-fall. The flowers on this species are clustered with many flowers with petals that are not overlapping, and have 3 stamens.

Habitat: Disturbed areas, hammock margins, occasionally in globally imperiled pine rocklands

Florida Introduction Date: 1936

Control Methods: Mechanical: May be controlled through the use of prescribed fire..

Chemical: Basal bark (10% trichlopyr ester), cut stump (50% trichlopyr amine). [IFAS].

Useful Resources:

Langeland, K.A., J.A. Ferrell, B. Sellers, G.E. MacDonald, and R.K. Stocker. 2011. Integrated management of non-native plants in natural areas of Florida. EDIS publication SP 242. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

IFAS, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. 2018. *Bauhinia variegata*. <https://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-directory/bauhinia-variegata/#2>. Accessed on June 11, 2018.

Strangers in Paradise, Impact and Management of Nonindigenous Species in Florida, Chapter 2: Florida's Invasion by Nonindigenous Plants: History, Screening, and Regulation, by D.R. Gordon and K.P. Thomas, pp. 21-37. Island Press, Washington, DC, 1997.

IFAS, UF. 2015. Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. *Bauhinia variegata*. <https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/bauhinia-variegata/> Accessed June 11, 2018.

Comments: Seeds remain viable for over a year. Prefers to grow in full sun conditions or partial shade.