



Tabebuia chrysotricha Golden Trumpet Tree¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

INTRODUCTION

An ideal patio, specimen, or lawn tree, Golden Trumpet Tree is often seen as a small, 15 to 25-foot-tall tree but can reach 50 feet, with a rounded, spreading canopy in a wind-protected area (Fig. 1). Sometimes evergreen but most often deciduous, Golden Trumpet Tree has four-inch-long silvery leaves with tan, fuzzy undersides. These leaves drop for a short period in April to May, and it is at this time that the trees put on their heaviest flowering display, the trumpet-shaped, bright yellow blossoms appearing in dense 2.5 to 8-inch-long terminal clusters. Some trees produce a small number of flowers sporadically throughout the warm season. The eight-inch-long seed capsules which follow are brown, hairy, and persist on the tree through the winter.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Tabebuia chrysotricha*

Pronunciation: tab-eh-BOO-yuh kriss-oh-TRICK-uh

Common name(s): Golden Trumpet Tree

Family: *Bignoniaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 10 through 11 (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; residential street tree; no

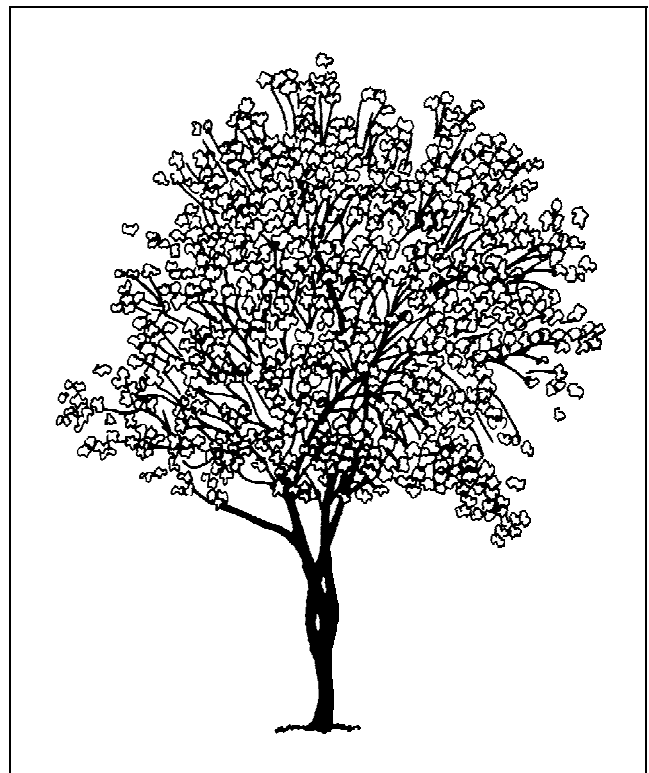


Figure 1. Middle-aged Golden Trumpet Tree.

proven urban tolerance

Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

DESCRIPTION

Height: 25 to 35 feet

Spread: 25 to 35 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette

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2. Edward F. Gilman, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Crown shape: round
Crown density: moderate
Growth rate: fast
Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)
Leaf type: palmately compound
Leaflet margin: entire; undulate
Leaflet shape: elliptic (oval); oblong
Leaflet venation: banchidodrome; pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous; semievergreen
Leaflet blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: yellow
Flower characteristics: spring flowering; very showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: elongated; pod
Fruit length: 6 to 12 inches; 3 to 6 inches
Fruit covering: dry or hard
Fruit color: brown
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; no significant litter problem; persistent on the tree; showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns
Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure
Breakage: susceptible to breakage either at the crotch due to poor collar formation, or the wood itself is weak and tends to break
Current year twig color: brown; green
Current year twig thickness: medium

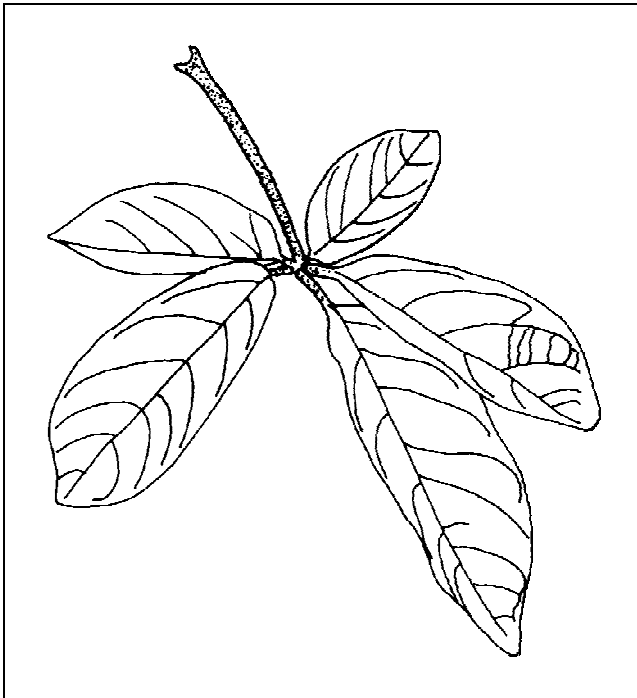


Figure 3. Foliage of Golden Trumpet Tree.

protected from frost. Although some will leaf out following a freeze, the tree is often weakened and grows poorly. The wood becomes brittle with age and can break easily in strong winds, so it is not often seen larger than about 30 feet tall. But this should not dampen your desire to plant this wonderful tree because it provides such enjoyment in the mean time.

Trees planted with circling roots often fall over as they mature. Be sure to slice the root ball on container-grown trees.

Propagation is by seed or layering.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in full sun

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

Drought tolerance: moderate

Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Pest resistance: no pests are normally seen on the tree

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Golden Trumpet Tree is very useful as a median street tree for its vivid flower display, asymmetrical habit and drought tolerance. Once established it can survive on rainfall alone and produce an excellent flower display each year. It also makes a nice tree for planting close to the patio or deck where it will cast a light to medium shade below the canopy.

A native of tropical America, Golden Trumpet Tree can be grown best in full sun on any reasonably fertile soil with moderate moisture. Trees should be