
Blooming Beauties - A Summer Flowering Ornamental Trees

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ABSTRACT

In this article it is overviewed about the ornamental trees, which flowers during summer months in Indian geographical conditions. Their significant features like their family, biology, their habit, habitat, important uses, types and variance in their varieties and their major role as an ornamental tree has been discussed. These trees are now majorly used in the urban areas for the urban reconstruction like green infrastructure and sustainable landscaping. More likely the trees listed below are grown in avenue planting in the road sides and in the working environment like educational institutions, office buildings, apartments for their harmonious and elegant look.

INTRODUCTION

Ornamental trees play a vital role in enhancing the beauty and functionality of landscapes, offering both aesthetic appeal and environmental benefits. These trees, characterized by their unique shapes, vibrant foliage and striking flowers, serve as focal points in gardens, parks and urban settings. These trees are celebrated not only for their captivating flowers but also for their ability to provide shade, improve air quality and support local ecosystems. As the summer sun

casts its warm glow, these flowering trees offer a breathtaking array of hues from brilliant reds and pinks to soft whites and yellows may transform outdoor spaces into vibrant sanctuaries. In addition to their aesthetic appeal, summer-flowering ornamental trees play a crucial role in ecological balance, attracting pollinators like bees and butterflies that are vital for maintaining biodiversity. Their seasonal blooms serve as a reminder of nature's beauty and resilience, fostering a deeper connection between communities and the environment.

ORNAMENTAL TREES THAT CAN FLOWER DURING SUMMER MONTHS IN INDIA

1. BOUGAINVILLEA (*Bougainvillea spectabilis*)

The tree belongs to the family Nyctaginaceae which is also known as four O' clock family. It is known for its vibrant and colorful bracts which comes in various hues like pink, purple, red, orange and white. They are drought tolerant and Bougainvillea flowers continuously bloom throughout the growing season, often from spring to fall, providing sustained visual interest. It can be grown as a shrub, vine, or ground cover, making it adaptable to various garden styles and settings. It can be trained to climb trellises, fences, or walls, or used as a hedge. Bougainvillea is relatively easy to care for, requiring only occasional pruning to maintain its shape and encourage blooming. In many tropical and subtropical regions, Bougainvillea is a symbol of beauty and prosperity, often used in traditional landscaping.

Several Bougainvillea varieties thrive in summer, offering different colors, sizes, and growth habits. Here are some popular ones:

Sl. No	Plant Name	Color	Growth	Blooming
1.	Barbara Karst	Bright magenta-red	Vigorous climber, suitable for trellises and walls	Summer and fall
2.	California Gold	Golden yellow bracts that fade to pale ivory	Moderate climber, ideal for hedges or walls	Thrives in warm summer temperatures
3.	James Walker	Deep magenta or purple	Vigorous and compact; works well in containers or as a vine	Blooms heavily during summer
4.	Raspberry Ice	Raspberry-pink bracts with variegated green and cream foliage	Compact, making it ideal for small gardens or pots	Performs well in warm summer weather
5.	La Jolla	Bright magenta	Dwarf variety, perfect for ground cover or low hedges	Tolerates high heat and flourishes in summer
6.	White Cascade	Pure white bracts	Cascading growth habit, suitable for hanging baskets or overwalls	Blooms best in the heat of summer



2. JACARANDA (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)

The Jacaranda tree belongs to the family Bignoniaceae that grow upto a height of 15 to 25 meters. The leaves are bipinnate, meaning they are divided into smaller leaflets, giving them a feathery appearance. They are bright green and can provide significant shade. The bark is smooth and gray, becoming rougher as the tree matures. It usually blooms in late spring to early summer, with the exact timing varying by region and climate. They prefer well-drained soils and are tolerant to drought once established and thrive in full sun and are often planted as ornamental trees in parks and streets. This deciduous tree is renowned for its stunning purple-blue flowers that blanket the tree during the summer months. It is a fast-growing tree that provides shade and enhances the beauty of gardens. The Jacaranda tree produces trumpet-shaped, lavender-blue flowers that bloom in clusters. Blooming typically occurs in spring or early summer, creating a striking display as the flowers cover the branches. The summer months are particularly beautiful for Jacarandas, as their vibrant blooms create a stunning canopy, often referred to as a "purple rain" effect when the petals fall. This makes them popular in landscaping and urban settings.

Jacaranda mimosifolia - most common species, known for its vibrant purple flowers that typically bloom in late spring to early summer.

Jacaranda acutifolia - this variety also produces striking blue-purple flowers and has a slightly different leaf shape than *mimosifolia*. These two species has been widely grown in Indian states and also there are some other species that include,

Jacaranda caerulea - Known for its deeper blue flowers, this variety blooms in summer and is popular in tropical regions.

Jacaranda jasminoides - This variety features fragrant flowers and can also bloom in summer, adding a lovely scent to its visual display.

Jacaranda hybrid - Various hybrids exist that have been developed for improved hardiness and different flower colors, including lighter shades of blue and even white.

While specific varieties that bloom exclusively during summer are limited, *Jacaranda mimosifolia* is the primary species to look for, as it can still display flowers into the summer months,

especially in warmer climates. The blooming time can vary based on local conditions, making it a beautiful addition to Indian gardens.



3. GOLDEN SHOWER TREE (*Cassia fistula*)

The tree belongs to the family Fabaceae (legume family) which grows up to a height of 10 to 20 meters tall. The leaves are compound and typically consist of 3 to 5 leaflets, giving a lush green appearance. This tropical tree is adorned with golden-yellow flowers that resemble chains of blossoms. It is a popular choice for ornamental gardens and provides a striking visual display during the summer. The tree produces striking yellow flowers in late spring to early summer, often around May to June in India. The flowers are bright yellow and hang in long clusters, creating a stunning display. Each flower is about 2.5 to 5 cm in size. The Golden Shower Tree thrives in well-drained soils and prefers full sunlight, where summer months bring warm temperatures and ample sunlight, essential for flowering and fruiting. It has drought-tolerant nature. In India, it is often associated with various cultural and religious festivals. Its flowers are sometimes used in decorations. Parts of the tree have been used in traditional medicine for their various health benefits. The Golden Shower Tree is commonly planted in parks and along streets due to its attractive flowers and shade-providing canopy. It's also the state flower of Kerala and holds significance in various cultural contexts. Other than *Cassia fistula* some species have been used in India they are,

***Cassia javanica* (Java Cassia):** This species features pink to white flowers and is also grown in various parts of India. It blooms during the summer, adding a different hue to the landscape.

***Cassia auriculata* (Tanner's Cassia):** While not as commonly seen as the golden shower tree, this species has yellow flowers and is sometimes found in gardens.

***Cassia grandis* (Pink Shower Tree):** This variety produces pink flowers and can be seen in some regions of India, especially in gardens and parks.

They are often planted for their aesthetic appeal and shade.



4. *Plumeria (Plumeria rubra)*

The tree belongs to the family Apocynaceae, which is commonly known as the dogbane family. This family includes a variety of flowering plants, many of which are known for their milky sap and ornamental qualities. The tree also known as frangipani, this tropical tree is valued for its fragrant, waxy flowers that come in various colors like white, pink, yellow and red of funnel-shaped with five petals. Its lush foliage and exotic blooms enhance the tropical look of gardens, landscapes and patios. Plumeria trees are relatively easy to care for, requiring minimal watering and thriving in warm climates. Plumeria can be grown as a tree, shrub, or in containers, allowing for flexible landscaping options. Its fragrant flowers attract bees, butterflies and birds, enhancing the biodiversity of gardens. In many cultures, Plumeria is associated with beauty and is used in traditional ceremonies, adding cultural value to gardens. It is a low-maintenance tree that can thrive in hot and dry conditions. Plumeria flowers usually start to appear in late spring and continue through the summer, often peaking during the warmer months. They thrive in full sun and well-drained soil. Adequate watering (without waterlogging) and good sunlight are crucial for encouraging abundant blooms. The flowers are known for their sweet, pleasant fragrance, which becomes more pronounced during the warm summer evenings. Overall summer is a prime time to enjoy the beauty of Plumeria tree blooms.

***Plumeria obtusa*:** Often called the "Singapore Plumeria," it has glossy green leaves and fragrant white flowers, sometimes with a yellow center with funnel-shaped but more rounded petals. Very fragrant, often described as more subtle compared to *P. rubra*.

***Plumeria alba*:** Known as the "White Frangipani," this species produces stunning white flowers with a yellow center and has a sweet fragrance.

***Plumeria stenopetala*:** This variety features narrow petals and can produce clusters of flowers, often found in shades of white or cream.

***Plumeria 'Hawaiian Pink'*:** A hybrid variety known for its beautiful pink flowers, it's popular for its vibrant color and fragrance.

Plumeria 'Hawaiian Yellow': This variety has striking yellow flowers and is favored for its tropical appearance.

These Plumeria species thrive in warm, sunny conditions, making them ideal for Indian summers. Although all Plumeria varieties share some common traits, their unique blooming characteristics make each one special and appealing for different ornamental purposes.



5. FLAME OF THE FOREST/ SCARED TREE

Butea monosperma, commonly known as the Flame of the Forest or Bastard Teak, is a striking deciduous tree belonging to the Fabaceae family, which is often referred to as the legume, pea, or bean family. The tree is native to the tropical and subtropical regions of South Asia, particularly found in countries like India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Renowned for its vibrant orange to red flowers that bloom in clusters, this tree typically blossoms in late winter to early spring, creating a stunning display that attracts both attention and various pollinators. It has a broad, spreading canopy with a rugged bark, giving it an interesting and visually appealing structure. It grows to a height of about 15 to 30 meters. This tree is valued not only for its ornamental beauty but also for its ecological benefits. It provides shade, attracts wildlife and is used in traditional medicine and various cultural practices. It can thrive in poor soil conditions, which makes it a good choice for urban landscaping and reclamation projects. This tree is drought-tolerant once established, making it suitable for various climates, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions. This deciduous tree is known for its fiery red flowers that bloom in clusters during the summer. It is a popular choice for parks and gardens and provides a striking contrast against the green foliage. Due to its vibrant flowers, unique form, adaptability, and cultural significance, it is a popular ornamental plant that enhances both aesthetic appeal and ecological value in various landscapes. Some cultivars have been developed specifically for ornamental purposes, emphasizing flower color, tree shape and overall aesthetics. These are often promoted in nurseries and garden centers. Some of the species are more adaptable for Indian conditions viz., *Butea monosperma* var. *lutea*, *Butea monosperma* (Dwarf Varieties). Some of the regional Variants that performs in different areas are,

Northern and Central Indian Forms: In regions like Punjab and Madhya Pradesh, the trees may exhibit slight variations in flower size and leaf shape due to local environmental conditions.

South Indian Forms: In states like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, variations may be seen in flowering times and growth habits.

Its vibrant summer blooms, shade-providing canopy and drought resilience make it a valuable and beautiful addition to landscapes during the hot months. Its ecological benefits and cultural significance further enhance its appeal in summer settings.



6. Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)

The magnolia tree is a stunning deciduous or evergreen tree known for its large, fragrant flowers and attractive foliage. Belonging to the genus *Magnolia* in the family *Magnoliaceae*, these trees are celebrated for their beauty and versatility in landscaping. This family is known for its diverse range of trees and shrubs, many of which are characterized by their large, fragrant flowers and glossy leaves. They are found mainly in East Asia and the Americas. Magnolias are admired for their beautiful blooms, which can be white, pink, purple, or yellow and often emerge before or alongside the leaves in spring. The trees can vary significantly in size, with some species reaching heights of 20 to 80 feet (6 to 24 meters). These trees thrive in a variety of environments, preferring well-drained soil and full sun to partial shade with many species adapted to different climates. Magnolias are widely used as ornamental trees in gardens, parks and urban landscapes due to their striking appearance, fragrant flowers and ability to enhance aesthetic value. They also have cultural significance in many regions, symbolizing beauty and dignity. Many magnolia species are native to warmer climates, which helps them thrive in hot summer temperatures. Their thick, leathery leaves reduce water loss through evaporation. The adaptations showed enable Magnolias to thrive in summer, contributing to their popularity as ornamental trees in various landscapes. India is home to several varieties of Magnolia, both native and introduced. Here are some notable types:

1. *Magnolia champaca* (Champaca or Joy Perfume Tree): This species is highly valued for its fragrant flowers and is often used in traditional medicine and perfumery.

2. *Magnolia grandiflora* (Southern Magnolia): Known for its large, glossy leaves and big white flowers, this variety is often cultivated in gardens and parks.

3. *Magnolia kobus*: This species produces white to pale pink flowers and is appreciated for its ornamental value.

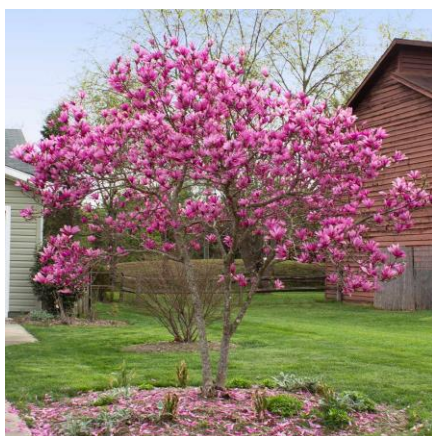
4. *Magnolia liliiflora* (Tulip Tree): Recognized for its unique tulip-shaped flowers, this variety adds aesthetic appeal to gardens.

5. *Magnolia denudata* (Yulan Magnolia): This type features large, white, fragrant flowers and is often used in landscape design.

6. *Magnolia figo* (Banana Magnolia): Known for its sweet-scented, small flowers, this variety is sometimes grown in warmer regions.

7. *Magnolia obovata*: This tree has large, broad leaves and produces creamy white flowers, often found in temperate regions.

These Magnolias thrive in various climates across India, from tropical to temperate zones, making them popular choices for ornamental planting. Overall, Magnolia trees are cherished for their magnificent blooms and the elegance they bring to any landscape.



7. GULMOHAR / ROYAL POINCIANA

The flame tree, known scientifically as *Delonix regia*, belongs to the family Fabaceae, with a subfamily Caesalpinioideae. It is a stunning ornamental plant celebrated for its vibrant, flame-like fiery-red flowers and broad, umbrella-like canopy. Native to Madagascar, it has become popular in many tropical and subtropical regions, including India. The Gulmohar produces large clusters of bright orange-red flowers, typically blooming in the late spring to early summer. The flowers have five petals, with four being broad and the fifth petal often larger, adding to its visual appeal. The tree features feathery, compound leaves that are bright green and provide a lovely contrast to the colorful blossoms. The foliage is deciduous, shedding leaves in dry seasons. Gulmohar trees can grow up to 10-12 meters tall and have a wide canopy, making them excellent shade providers. It thrives in warm, sunny climates and prefers well-drained soil. It is drought-tolerant once established but benefits from regular watering during prolonged dry spells. The Gulmohar is widely used in parks, gardens, and along roadsides due to its striking flowers and broad canopy. It serves as a focal point in landscaping and provides ample shade. In many regions, the tree is celebrated for its beauty and is often associated with various cultural festivals and events. The Gulmohar requires minimal maintenance, though it benefits from occasional pruning to maintain its shape and encourage healthy growth. It's also essential to monitor for pests like caterpillars and leafhoppers. The combination of beautiful flowers and lush

green foliage creates a striking visual contrast, making them a focal point in any landscape. Gulmohar trees thrive in warm climates with well-drained soil. They are often planted in parks, along streets, and in gardens for their aesthetic appeal and shade-providing qualities. While the standard variety remains the most popular, the different types and hybrids contribute to the diversity of landscapes in India. Some of the listed varieties are Standard, Variegated, Dwarf, Yellow and Hybrid Gulmohar.

Overall, the Gulmohar tree is an excellent choice for those looking to enhance their outdoor spaces with a touch of tropical beauty and vibrant colors.



8.PONGAMIA (*Pongamia pinnata*):

Pungam / Pongamia is a tropical tree belonging to the Fabaceae family. It is also commonly known as Karanjor Pongam. Native to regions of South East Asia and Australia, it has adapted well to various climates and is widely planted in India and other tropical regions. It is a medium-sized deciduous tree that typically grows to a height of 15 to 25 meters. Its fragrant flowers, typically white or pale pink, bloom in clusters, adding visual interest. It has a sturdy trunk and a broad, spreading canopy, providing ample shade. The tree features compound leaves that are glossy and dark green, contributing to its ornamental appeal. Pongamia produces fragrant clusters of pale pink to white flowers, which bloom during the summer months. These flowers are attractive to pollinators. This tree is highly drought-tolerant, making it suitable for various climates, especially in arid regions. Pongamia plays a role in improving soil fertility and can help in reforestation efforts due to its nitrogen-fixing abilities. Due to its wide canopy, Pongamia is often used as a shade tree in urban landscapes, parks and along roadsides. In many cultures, Pongamia is revered for its medicinal properties and is often planted in sacred spaces. Its resilience and adaptability make it a valuable species for sustainable forestry and environmental management. Overall, Pongamia is not only an attractive ornamental tree but also a multifunctional species that contributes to ecological sustainability and community well-being. It has several types and varieties, though it is generally categorized based on its morphological traits and adaptations to different environments. In which *Pongamia glabra* is Similar to *P. pinnata*, it features glossy leaves and may have a slightly different flower color. Also used for ornamental planting and in reforestation efforts. There are several cultivated varieties of Pongamia, selected for specific traits,

'Variegata': This cultivar has variegated leaves, which add unique visual interest.

'Alba': Known for its predominantly white flowers, this variety is often chosen for its aesthetic appeal



9. THE ARJUNA TREE (*Terminalia arjuna*):

It belongs to the family Combretaceae. This family includes a variety of trees and shrubs, many of which are found in tropical and subtropical regions. Members of the Combretaceae family are often known for their distinctive fruit structures and are significant in both ecological and medicinal contexts. The Arjuna tree itself is particularly valued for its ornamental qualities and its traditional medicinal uses. It is a striking and versatile species often used as an ornamental tree in landscaping and urban environments. It is known for its broad, spreading canopy and attractive features, the Arjuna tree can enhance the aesthetic appeal of gardens, parks and streetscapes. The flowering season usually occurs from late spring to early summer, depending on the local climate. The tree produces small, white to pale yellow flowers in clusters, which can be quite attractive and add to its ornamental appeal. After flowering, the tree develops fruits that can persist on the branches, contributing to its visual interest throughout the year. The Arjuna tree boasts smooth, grayish bark and lush, dark green leaves that turn a vibrant yellow in the fall, providing seasonal interest. Its small, fragrant white flowers appear in clusters during the summer, adding to its ornamental charm. With its expansive canopy, the Arjuna tree offers ample shade, making it an excellent choice for parks and recreational areas where people seek relief from the sun. In various cultures, the Arjuna tree is celebrated for its medicinal properties, particularly in traditional Ayurvedic medicine. Its cultural value can enhance its appeal in botanical gardens and traditional landscapes.



10. MAHUA (*Madhuca longifolia*):

Mahua tree also known as the Butter tree or Illupai tree, is an elegant and versatile species that is increasingly appreciated for its ornamental value. This deciduous tree is native to the tropical regions of India and South East Asia and is renowned for its striking features and cultural

significance. The tree is distinguished by its large, glossy leaves and fragrant, white to yellow flowers that bloom in clusters during spring. The flowers not only enhance the visual charm of gardens but also emit a pleasant fragrance that attracts pollinators. It grows up to 15-20 meters tall, with a broad, spreading canopy that provides ample shade, making it an excellent choice for parks and open spaces. Its sturdy trunk and well-formed branches add to its majestic appearance. It typically flowers in the spring, but in some regions, it can also produce flowers during the summer months. The fragrant white to yellow flowers bloom in clusters and are known for their sweet scent, attracting various pollinators. The flowering period can vary depending on the local climate and environmental conditions, but generally blooms from late spring to early summer. It holds significant cultural and economic value in various regions. The flowers are used to produce traditional beverages, while the seeds yield valuable oil. This cultural relevance enhances its appeal in local landscapes. Due to its low-maintenance and adaptability to various soil types and climatic conditions, making it a suitable tree for urban and rural landscapes. *Madhuca indica* is also a variety that has been greatly confused with the main species *Madhuca longifolia*. Depending on geographical distribution, there can be regional forms of the Mahua tree that display slight differences in foliage, flowering patterns, and growth habits due to local environmental conditions.



CONCLUSION

This exploration of ornamental trees that flower in summer will highlight various species, their unique characteristics and best practices for incorporating them into landscape design. By understanding their benefits and beauty, we can enhance our outdoor environments and create lasting impressions throughout the summer season. These trees provide an enhanced look to the society and landscape environment with their bright and appealing colors when the sun comes out of the sky that makes human population have a good day with a pleasant mind and a happy heart.

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