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Tabebuia bahamensis

Bahamian Trumpet Tree, Five Fingers



Eleuthera Island, Bahamas



Eleuthera Island, Bahamas

Late March

Bignoniaceae

Flower Display: C

Growing almost everywhere on the island of Eleuthera in the Bahamas, this is a hard tree to miss, especially when it is in flower. Tabebuia bahamensis is similar in its appearance to its close kin T. heterophylla. However, T. bahamensis distinguishes itself from T. heterophylla with smaller leaves, and with leaflets that are slenderer, and green above and strongly whitish below. It is a slim and trim tree, with a small trunk, and delicate upright branches, and thus a striking contrast to its larger, more robust relative. T. bahamensis will do quite well on well-drained, alkaline, or acidic soils. It is briefly deciduous in the spring just before peak flowering. It begins flowering as it releafs. If water-stressed, the leafless period is more pronounced. A spotty flowerer, it may bloom intermittently during the year. T. bahamensis seeds germinate about three weeks after sowing. Its early growth is fast in moist welldrained soils, roughly 70 inches in two years. A young tree begins flowering about two to three years after germination, but it will be a couple more years before it truly becomes a 'flowering' tree. Like T. heterophylla the leaves of this Bahamas namesake can be badly affected by thrips. Thrip damage usually follows the peak blooming period. Thrip control is best achieved by applying a systemic soil insecticide during spring bloom, before feeding damage becomes evident. This rarely sold tree should be more widely used. It would make an ideal tree for patios, streetscapes and parking lots.

Bahamian Trumpet Tree

Svn: Tecoma bahamensis, Tabebuia turquin-

ensis, T. affinis, T. leonis Origin: Bahamas, Cuba **Zone:** 10a-12b, 28°F **Growth Rate:** Fast

Flowering Months(s): March-May

Flowering Days: 15

Leaf Persistence: Briefly Deciduous

just before flowering Messiness: Low Salt Tolerance: High **Drought Tolerance:** High **Nutritional Requirements:** Low

Potential Pests: Thrips **Typical Dimensions:** 12'x8'

Uses: Garden, Park, Patio, Seaside, Speci-

men, Streetscape



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Thrip damage to new foliage



Eleuthera Island, Bahamas Late March

Cylindrical seed capsule with vertical

grooves



Nassau, Bahamas



Nassau, Bahamas Late March

Leaves: Palmate, opposite, to 4 ½ inches long, strongly whitish below, scaly, with 3-9 obovate to narrowly elliptic leaflets, obtuse to rounded at apex, rounded or obtuse at base

Flowers: Funnelform, flaring mouth, pink to pinkish white corolla, yellow throat, calyx densely scaly, to 2.5 inches long on terminal panicles or reduced to few terminal flowers

Fruits: Capsules, cylindric, with vertical grooves, 4 inches long and 1/4 inches wide

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Tropical Flowering Trees List Questions/Comments: Email: brownsh@leegov.com



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Tabebuia bahamensis, Tabebuia turquinensis, Tabebuia affinis, Tabebuia leonis Family: Bignoniaceae

Dwarf Bahamian Trumpet Tree, Five Fingers

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- Tabebuia chrysotricha, Tabebuia chrysantha#G z dui#J roghqWdehexは,
- Tabebula haemantha, Bignonia haemantha#EcrqOUhq₩uxp shwWuhh/#Uredn#Flp durq/#Uredn#Flp p durq,
- * Tabebuia heterophylla#Slqn#Wuxp shw#Wuhh,
- Tabebuia impetiginosa##G z dui#Slqn#Wdehexld,
- ' <u>Tabebuia pallida, Tabebuia heterophylla subsp. pallida +Z k kh#Z rrq/#Sddn#Skm</u># Wuxp_shw#Wuhh,
- * Tabebuia riparia#+Z k lwh#wdehexld,
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