

Pride of Barbados

Caesalpinia pulcherrima

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The alternate common names, such as flame tree, peacock flower, and flowering fence hint at its magnificent display. It is a fast-growing shrub or small tree that can reach heights of up to 10 feet and can be pruned to maintain its shape and size. Pride of Barbados is known for its showy, brightly colored flowers that bloom all summer. The typical flower color in our area is orange and red, but yellow is also available. This perennial is Austin-area tough – drought-tolerant, requires full sun, and needs well-drained soil. In fact, it thrives in our alkaline soils and is an Earth-Kind selection.

Once the seedpods turn brown simply pick them off the tree limbs and break them open and bag up the seeds!



Canna Lillies

Canna lily plants explode with color from striking leaves and exotic flowers. This trio of canna lily varieties adds vivid color to any planting: Tropicana canna (striped leaves and orange blooms), Tropicana Gold (green and yellow striped leaves and yellow and orange flowers), and Tropicana Black (dark leaves and red blooms).



Once these Canna Lillies bloom in the Spring you will start to see what looks like dried brown pods or brown dried buds. Inside them are very hard black seeds.

Make sure you let the pods dry until they are hard and dark brown, then open them up and get all the seeds. Some may only have 1 or 2 seeds, while other 5 to 6 seeds. If you were to plant the seeds right away without germinating them, they are so hard and solid that they could take 2 or 3 years to sprout. That is why a Canna Lilly can survive and grow back after the worst freeze or heatwave. Watch this video to learn more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8Su1fmOR10>



Mimosa Trees



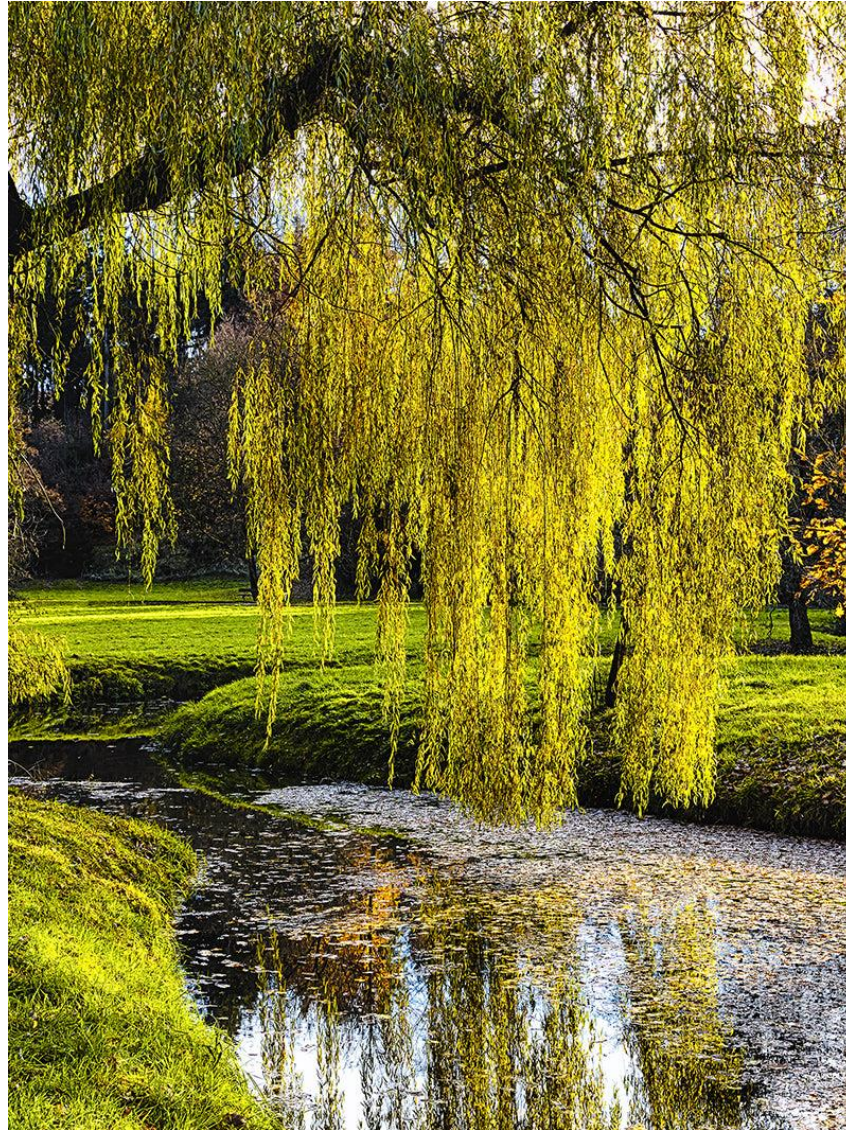
The mimosa tree, also known as the Persian silk tree, is a medium-sized tree which produces gorgeous pink and puffy flowers. Mimosa trees grow very quickly and can bloom even in their early stages. Its mature shape resembles a vase, and it has a flat, dense top, which makes for a great shade tree. They're also hardy to colder temperatures and are drought tolerant. They can also be tamed to be smaller bushes.



We can also plant small cuttings from an existing Mimosa Tree: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79b-MVcU1Rw>

Weeping Willow Trees

These Weeping Willow trees would be helpful to our erosion problems by the lake.



Willow Trees are desirable in areas prone to erosion, as they grow well on the banks of streams or lakes. The roots will take hold, at times growing aurally till they find fitting soil and new water.

Look how easy it is to cut a small branch off an existing Willow Tree and soak it in water for a few weeks and like magic you have another new Willow Tree or many if you like! Cut it off at an angle like shown below:



It's important not to grow a Weeping Willow too close to the house, pipes, or gas lines as they have an invasive root system.

Watch this video to learn more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aT-8-NkTSUQ>