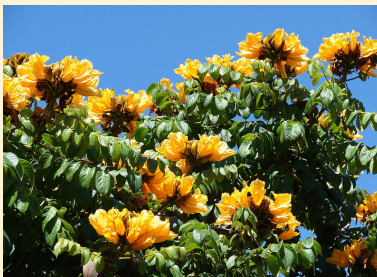


African Tulip

Spathodea campanulata

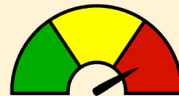


**Do not
plant this
in your yard!**



This invasive ornamental tree was intentionally planted in Hawai'i in the late 1800's. It is commonly referred to as flame of the forest, fountain tree, or fire ball.

African Tulip is considered one of Hawai'i's worst invasive horticultural plants, yet is still sold in nurseries and planted intentionally in landscaping.



High Risk

Description:

African Tulip trees can grow up to 80 ft tall, forming a thick, dark canopy with lots of large, glossy dark-green leaves. These trees are very fast-growing, and wood can become brittle and break in high winds.

Flower:

Scarlet orange or yellow varieties (same species). Showy flowers grow in large clusters and bloom year round.

Fruit:

Fruits appear as canoe-shaped seed capsules. The capsules burst explosively when ripe, and seeds are carried in the wind for miles.

Impacts and Harm:

Because the seeds spread easily on the wind and in water, the trees can end up far from the site of original planting. In the forest, they reproduce easily and form dense thickets that shade out native vegetation.

Plant this native instead:



Kou (Cordia subcordata)