



Expanding Tree Diversity in Hawai'i's Landscapes: Hooker's Bauhinia, *Bauhinia hookeri*

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Examples of this weeping tree with a round crown can be seen along Honolulu's University Avenue. It grows to about 25 ft tall with a spread of 15–20 ft. The Philippine name *alibangbang*, which refers to a different species (*B. binata*), has also been applied to this Australian native. Additional information on *B. hookeri* can be found by researching its alternate name, *Lysiphyllum hookeri*.

Recommended Use in Landscapes

- Street tree
- Specimen
- Residential tree
- Can be maintained as a shrub
- Good container specimen
- Bonsai



Flowers of *Bauhinia hookeri*



Bauhinia hookeri at the University of Hawai'i

Distribution

- Northeast and central coastal Queensland, Australia

Propagation Techniques

- Seed
- Air layering

Cultural Requirements and Tolerances

- Full sun
- Moist but well-drained soil; moderately drought tolerant
- Tolerates pruning to direct growth and shape the tree
- Wind tolerant but not salt wind tolerant; avoid first-exposure seacoast.

Flower and Fruit Characteristics

- 5-petalled white flowers about 3 inches across with 10 red stamens.
- Flowers are borne in clusters near the end of each branch.
- Fruits: a flat pod about 3 to 5 inches long.

Leaf Characteristics

- Each leaf is about 1½ inches long and deeply divided into 2 rounded lobes, giving the appearance of two leaflets.
- Leaf arrangement is alternate

Advantages for Use in Landscapes

- Produces light shade
- Non-aggressive root system
- Tolerates a narrow (4 ft) planting strip.

Disadvantages for Use in Landscapes

- Tends to produce basal suckers
- Not tolerant to coastal salt winds.



A single leaf of *Bauhinia hookeri*



New growth weeps gently from the canopy.