Purple orchid tree

Discover

Two lobes, one leaf

This card uses the name purple orchid tree for Bauhinia purpurea, a tree.
Classification: Fabaceae · Bauhinia

Start with the tree · trunk, branches and crown



Whole-subject illustration; not to scale

Circled area → detail at right; pruning changes the form.

Look closer · leaf, flowers and pod



Enlarged view of the circled part; not to scale

- A notch divides one leaf into two lobes
- Leaf veins spread from near the leaf stalk
- Look at the tree, then the leaf
- Simple leaves have two lobes; flowers are pink to rose, and fruits are long flat pods.

Check the name

- **This card:** Bauhinia purpurea
- Similar species also have lobed leaves
- Check signs, flowers, fruit and the site

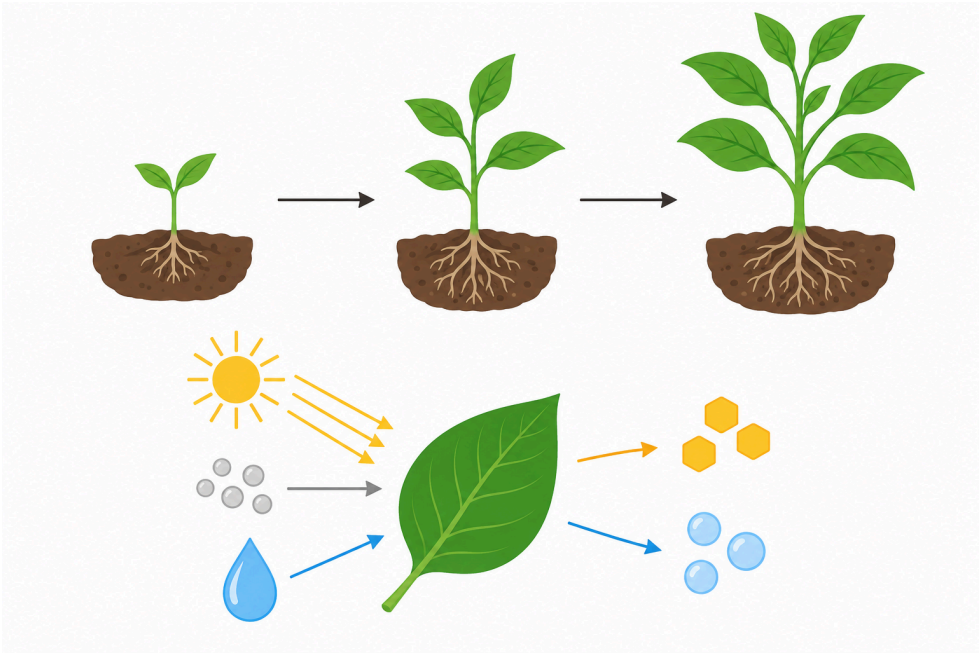
What conditions suit it?

- Warm conditions, full sun or partial shade
- Moderate water and well-drained soil
- Check leaf shape together with flowers and tree labels

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Discover

How does a tree grow?



- A seed sprouts roots and leaves
- The seedling grows stems and branches
- Leaves use light, water and carbon dioxide
- **Grey circles:** carbon dioxide; blue drop: water
- **Gold hexagons:** sugar; blue circles: released oxygen
- **Partly known:** Growth symbols are not species forms or growth rates
- **Partly known:** Leaf sugar-making is a general plant principle

Reproduction · seeds in pods

Flower → **Pod and seeds** → **Germination**

- Simplified; pollination and fertilisation omitted
- Flowers or pods may be absent on the trip
- **Partly known:** One simplified route, not every individual or detail

This card covers one species, not every related orchid tree.
Pictures do not replace field identification. Not found and unsure are valid records.
Sources: see the linked review notes.

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Observe

Choose 1–3 tasks. Point, say or draw; writing is optional.

1 · Look

Follow one leaf edge with your eyes. Find the notch.



Teaching illustration. Compare with real subjects from a distance.

2 · Look

Where do the lobes join? Is this one leaf or two?

3 · Record

Does a similar leaf prove it is this species?

4 · Write

Find “veins”. Say it; write if you wish.

veins

5 · Draw

Draw one leaf outline and a few veins.

6 · Record

The tree label says: _____
A leaf feature I saw: _____
Still unsure about: _____