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Caesalpinia pulcherrima

[Synonyms : *Poinciana bijuga*, *Poinciana elata*, *Poinciana pulcherrima*]

BARBADOS PRIDE is an evergreen shrub or tree. Probably native to tropical Asia it has small yellowish-white flowers, and leaves that turn yellow and crimson in Autumn. It is also known as *Baraguette* (French), Barbadoes flower fence, *Chana* (Malay), Dwarf poinciana, Flamboyant tree, Flower fence, *Framboyán Francés* (Spanish), Gold mohur, *Guletura* (Hindi), *Kembang abang* (Indonesian), *Krishnachura* (Bengali), *Mayuram* (Tamil), *Nok yung tai* (Thai), *Orgueil de Chine* (French), Paradise flower, Peacock flower, Poinciana, Pride of Barbados, *Ratnaghandi* (Telugu), Red bird of paradise, *Sandhesharo* (Gujarati), Small gold mohur, *Settimandaram* (Malayalam), and Yellow bird of paradise.

Barbados pride can be confused with Flamboyant (*Delonix regia*).

Warning – the acrid tasting roots are poisonous, as also the flowers and fruit. The leaves and fruit can cause purging and abortion.

Pulcherrima is derived from Latin *pulcher* (beautiful, fair, lovely) meaning ‘ most beautiful or very pretty’.

For Hindus the flower is sacred to Siva.

This evergreen can be a familiar sight in tropical countries as a decorative hedging.

The wood, which hardens with time, has been used for tree nails.

Medicinally, local remedies have used an extract of the whole plant to regulate periods. In Angola particularly the roots have provided a treatment for intermittent fevers, and notably in eastern India an extract of leaves and fruit pods has been prepared as a laxative.