

## Anacacho Orchid Tree (*Bauhinia congesta*)



**Native Range:** Anacacho Mountains, Kinney County West Texas (rare)

**Sun/Shade:** Full sun or part-shade **Flowers:** Little white orchid-like flowers cover this small ornamental tree/large shrub in spring usually beginning early April. It blooms a few weeks later than Redbud trees but is just as awesome. It will re-bloom less profusely throughout the summer and fall after rainfall.

**Landscape Use:** This awesome native small ornamental tree is simply unknown by many people or else it would be used much more. Its leaves look like a small Redbud's leaves, and on closer inspection, look like a cow's hoof. Use as a small ornamental tree like Crepe Myrtle or cut back periodically to create a large cascading shrub. **Size:** Can reach 10' feet tall. Tends to grow a little wider, 8' feet, but shorter than a Redbud tree. **Type:** A deciduous flowering ornamental tree or large shrub. **Deer Resistance:** Not favored by Deer.

**Butterflies/Hummingbirds:** Love it. **Drought Tolerance:** Very drought tolerant but looks best with regular watering. **Soil:** Not particular about soil as long as it drains well and does not remain constantly wet. Does well in rocky

soil or even better with soil enhancement. **Water:** Smart Watering Principle=Water well when first planted then allow to dry slightly, without wilting, then water deeply again, etc. Easy Watering Principle= Water every day the first week; every second day the second week; every third day the third week; every fourth day the fourth week; every fifth day the fifth week. A soaking rainfall should last for about two weeks worth of watering. Do not keep constantly wet. **Fertilizer:** Looks even better with regular fertilization. **Maintenance Tips:** Use some rocky hard soil along with good soil when planting. Firm the base and support the trunk with a boulder or stake the trunk since the tree tends to bend at the base in loose soil or until firmly established. Train into a low canopied multi-trunk tree-form like a Mountain Laurel for the best effect. **Rating:** Rates high as a landscape plant. **Pictures:** See the plant picture book in the appropriate section.