
PLEASE PROTECT ME

I am a very rare specimen tree in your area. In order to ensure my survival, please protect me by following these suggestions:

1. Do not injure my trunk.



2. Keep all machines and weed whips away.
 3. Do not over water me.
 4. I will respond well to a good nutrient supply with an even NPK balance and supplemented trace elements.
 5. Do not write graffiti on my stem.
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The Department of Recreation and Parks maintains and protects hundreds of heritage trees. Heritage trees are individual trees of any size or species that are specifically designated as heritage because of their historical, commemorative, or horticultural significance. Preserving these treasures is important for future generations to admire. For further information, please contact the Department of Recreation and Parks at the address below.



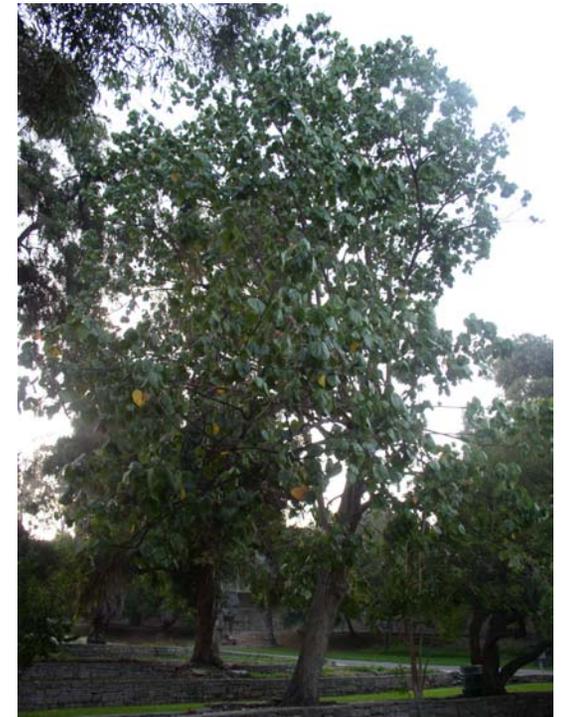
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TALL MAHOE TREE

HERITAGE TREE



*Elysian Park
Casanova Section
835 Academy Rd.
Los Angeles, CA 90012*

Tel: (213) 485-5054



TALL MAHOE *Hibiscus elatus*

Hello!!! My name is *Hibiscus elatus* but some people refer to me as the mahoe tree or the Cuban bast. I have been standing here for many



years hoping to get the opportunity to talk to you. I want to inform you of what a unique, interesting, and fascinating tree I am. I am probably the largest tree of my kind in the state of California. I am native to the tropical countries of Cuba and Jamaica. In many countries, the wood that I produce is used in the creation of fine furniture,

cabinets, and musical instruments. I was planted here many years ago to provide a splash of color for your park with my beautiful flowers. Now that we know each other and we are friends, please feel free to come over and visit me anytime.



Inform your family and friends of my presence so that they can also admire my splendor and beauty.

FLOWER

Throughout the spring and summer, you can come over and admire my beautiful flowers. My flowers



have a similar appearance to the famous Chinese *Hibiscus* or rose of Sharon plant, which you can see growing in most gardens.

Unlike the common *Hibiscus* plant, my flowers are funnel shaped and will go through color changes as the day goes by. In the morning

when I open my flowers, they'll have a bright yellow-orange coloration. At the end of the day, the flowers will change color



to an orange-red. In the tropical rainforest, my flowers are visited and pollinated by bats. The bats come over to drink the sweet nectar that I produce for them. Here at this facility, I receive visits from many humming-



birds. Early in the morning, hummingbirds can be observed fighting for the chance to drink the sweet nectar from my flowers.

LEAVES

In addition to my flowers, my leaves are also very attractive. My leaves are held up into the sunlight by a long stalk.



At maturity my leaf can reach an astonishing size. They can grow longer than two feet in length and width. To many people, my leaves resemble a heart. The leaves also acquire a very shiny and glossy finish. My large leaves are perfect

for providing shade for the public during those hot summer days.

FRUITS

After my flowers are pollinated, I begin to produce a fruit. My fruit is a dry capsule that splits open at maturity. The capsules are covered with golden pubescence. The pubescence help to protect the fruit from insects.

Please do not eat



my fruit. It is very unappetizing and distasteful to humans. Inside the fruit, I produce many small seeds. When the capsule opens, the seeds are ejected and dispersed throughout the area. In a couple of years those seeds will be transformed into a majestic tree like myself.