

FEVER TREE

Pinckneya bracteata

AKA Hairy Fever Tree; Fever Bark Tree

Description: A shrub or small tree with dark green leaves which are downy. The flowers have 5 Regular Parts are greenish-yellow with reddish markings, one large pink or cream lobe. Blooms first appear in late spring and continue into early summer. One lobe on some flowers becomes large, showy, petal like, pink to cream in color. The flowers are in clusters. Its fruit is brown, round two-part capsule with white scales that persist in winter.

Natural Habitat: Wet areas, swamps and the under story of moist woods

Conservation Status: Florida - threatened

Size: 4- 10 feet

Growth Rate: Slow

Light: Full sun to part shade

Planting and Care: Occasional inundation, moist, well-drained soils. To help the soil maintain its moisture, be sure to mulch heavily with pine bark, pine straw, or hardwood chips. A thin layer of newspaper under the bark, straw, or chips will make it even harder for moisture to escape.

Ornamental Value: The showiness of the bloom comes not from the 1" greenish corolla but from the sepals, which are enlarged and petal-like and range in color from cream to pink to rose. The late-spring blossoms occur at the branch ends in large, loose clusters and are enough to stop traffic.

Commercial/Traditional Uses: inner bark was once a common ingredient in home remedies for malaria and other fevers.

Wildlife Benefits: Foliage provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals.