

Flowering Trees



Firmiana colorata (Roxb.) R.Br. (Chinese parasol) of Sterculiaceae is a medium-size deciduous tree with a smooth bark and simple lobed leaves. Inflorescences which appear after the leaf fall are branched and covered with dense orange-red tomentum i.e. growth of tufts of short hairs. Inflorescences mostly appear on old woody twigs. Flowers are unisexual and without petals. Sepals are fused into a tubular structure, which is toothed distally. This, the calyx tube as well as the flower stalk are orange-red to scarlet-red in colour. Pistils in the female flower are discrete. Usually, five fruits develop from each flower which are membranaceous and break into leaf-like carpels long before their maturity. The carpels bear wrinkled globose seeds on their margins.

Firmiana is grown as an ornamental tree.