

## What's blooming in January

*Cassia fistula x javanica* hyb. **Cassia Rainbow Showers**  
'Rainbow Showers'



Native to	Southern Asia
Preferred growing conditions	Best in full sun
Drought resistant	Yes
Position in Parkland	Look for these along the edge of our Banyan and Lake Lawns and also along Parkland Boulevard above these lawns



Cassia 'Rainbow Showers' is a hybrid, being a cross between the 'Golden Shower Tree' (*Cassia fistula*) and the 'Pink Shower Tree' (*Cassia javanica*). Though the hybridisation was done in Hawaii the cassias themselves originated in Asia. Cassia 'Rainbow Showers' is the official tree of the City of Honolulu and the tree is very popular in the southern states of the USA.

*Cassia fistula* is native to southern Asia, from southern Pakistan east through India to Myanmar and south to Sri Lanka. *Cassia javanica* is native to Java, Indonesia, as the botanical name indicates.

All these trees, including the hybrid under reference, Cassia 'Rainbow Showers', need to be grown in full sun and are very drought tolerant. They all flower brilliantly year after year and, as in most other trees, the quantum of flowering is affected by weather conditions. Dry conditions just before flower set, followed by rain, seem to induce them into greater glory.

Written by Bob Dobbs, Roma Street Parkland Curator