



source: TTK NG

From Flames to Floss

Tsuen Wan



Tree Cotton (*Bombax ceiba*) were planted in Tsuen Wan when the new town was established. A large number of cotton trees were planted along Castle Peak Road near Fuk Loi Estate and Cotton Mills. This is also a village named as Muk Min Ha Tsuen which means the village under cotton trees. Nowadays, majestic cotton trees, along Sai Lau Kok Road outside Tsuen Wan MTR station, are found.

Tree Cotton is also known as "Hero Tree" in Chinese, ascribed to the towering and lofty stature of the species, which has a vertical trunk with clear layers of branching. Moreover, its flowers usually do not co-exist with the foliage. The look and habits of Tree Cotton was drawn parallel to a hero who is noble, dignified, righteous and magnanimous.

The flower of the Tree Cotton is also one of the ingredients for the Guangdong herbal tea "Five-Flowers Tea". In addition, it attracts many creatures e.g. Pallas's squirrel (*Callosciurus erythraeus*) and red whiskered bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*), and thus forming an ecological chain.