

## **Seven-son Flower**

*Heptacodium miconioides*

Family *Caprifoliaceae*

Sections D and P

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The name “Seven-son Flower” is derived from the arrangement of seven flowers on each stem. It is a large shrub or small tree which produces clusters of white flowers with pink sepals protecting the flowers. Once the petals of the flowers drop off in October, the pink sepals remain, resulting in the tree looking as if it was in bloom for a second time, only with pink flowers instead of white. Its peeling whitish-gray bark adds visual interest in the winter when the flowers and leaves have fallen. The *H. miconioides* may be grown as a tree or shrub, reaching a height of up to 10 to 25 feet. It is native to China, but is rarely found in wild populations and is vulnerable to extinction in its native habitat.



The leaves are medium green, shiny and oval and elongated in shape. It will send out long vertical shoots which may require judicious pruning to retain the desired shape of the tree or shrub. Its irregular shape adds visual interest to landscape environment, and may be successfully pruned to fit the confines of its location. For this reason, it makes an excellent showpiece for a small yard or patio area. It does not do well as a potted plant. The Seven-son Flower was first discovered to the western world in China in 1907, but introduced to American gardens by the Arnold Arboretum in 1980. It is a relatively unknown plant because it is at its showiest in late summer, when people are less inclined to shop for new plants.

*H. miconioides* is hardy in zones 5 – 9. Because of its long, late blooming season, it is attractive to butterflies, honeybees and hummingbirds. *H. miconioides* considered a cousin to honeysuckle bushes, but unlike honeysuckle, it is not an invasive plant. It does well in a variety of locations and soil types, but it does require well-drained soil in full sun.

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/trees/seven-son/seven-son-flower-trees.htm>  
<https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/seven-son-flower>  
<https://plantselect.org/plantstories/seven-son-flower-be-the-first-on-your-block/>  
<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=k450>