

STATE FLOWER



- Bougainvillea is the state flower of the United States territory of Guam, where it is known as the “Puti Tai Nobiu”, which means “It hurts to have no boyfriend”.
- Bougainvillea is a genus of about 15 species of shrubs, vines, and small trees in the family Nyctaginaceae, native to South America. What we can see as colorful papery “flowers” are actually modified leaves called bracts. The actual white and tiny flowers are surrounded by these large and brightly colored bracts. Bougainvillea bracts come in shades of red, purple, yellow, pink, orange and white. The small flowers are generally white.
- Philibert Commerson (1727-1773), a French naturalist and botanist, discovered the Bougainvillea and classified it in honor of his friend and shipmate Louis Antoine de Bougainville (1729-1811), who was the French Navy admiral.
- Bougainvillea symbolizes passion, liveliness, and life experience.
- There is a movement to change Guam`s state flower to the Gaosali, a native flower of Guam. The argument being made is that the Bougainvillea, Guam`s current state flower is an invasive species from South America that offers no unique connection to Guam or the Mariana Islands. Although it has been given a Chamoru name, the Puti Tai Nobiu is not native to Guam. It is also the official flower of other places in the world.

<https://www.atozflowers.com/flower/bougainvillea/>

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