

# Jacaranda mimosifolia (J. acutifolia)

*Bignoniaceae*

Brazil, Argentina

- Common names: Eng: jacaranda, Brazilian rosewood.
- Ecology: Jacaranda is native to Brazil and Argentina but has been introduced as an ornamental tree to most parts of the tropics, though in many tropical climates its flowering is light, irregular and disappointing. In Tanzania it has been planted frequently in several of the larger towns and flowers well, e.g. in Morogoro. Jacaranda is deep rooted and grows best in well-drained loams, although it will also survive on poor shallow soils. It does not tolerate waterlogged or clay soils. It requires a mean annual rainfall exceeding 900 mm, and elevations of 500-2,000 m.
- Uses: Firewood, timber, poles, tool handles, carving, bee forage, shade, ornamental, mulch, windbreak.
- Description: A deciduous tree, up to 20 m, with spreading branches to a light crown. BARK: pale grey, smooth, rougher with age. LEAVES: compound and feathery on stalks to 40 cm, up to 30 pairs of pinnae with small pointed leaflets. FLOWERS: striking mauve-blue clusters, each flower bell shaped, tree mostly in flower when not in leaf. FRUIT: rounded, woody capsules to about 7 cm, splitting on the tree to release numerous light seeds with transparent wings.
- Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 63,000-80,000. Seeds profusely. Germination rate 50%-85%.
- treatment: not necessary.
- storage: seed does not store well. Sow fresh seed for best germination results.
- Management: Very fast growing on good sites; lopping, pollarding coppicing, pruning (young trees).
- Remarks: A greedy feeder; few plants or crops can grow below Jacaranda.

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