

# Jacaranda mimosifolia

*Bignoniaceae*

Brazil

Tg: *Palasandro*

**Ecology:** A popular exotic tree widely grown as an ornamental throughout the highland tropics. It grows in most soils except waterlogged ones, and is deep rooted. It prefers highland areas but can also grow in some drier ones, 1,300-2,400 m. In Eritrea, it has been planted as an ornamental in the major towns.

**Uses:** Firewood, poles, timber (tool handles, carving), bee forage, **ornamental**, windbreak, **shade**.

**Description:** A deciduous tree up to 20 m with spreading branches making a light crown. **BARK:** **Pale grey and smooth**, rough and peeling with age. **LEAVES:** Compound and **feathery on a stalk to 40 cm**, up to 30 pairs of pinnae bearing the little **pointed leaflets**. **FLOWERS:** Striking **blue-violet**, in clusters, each flower bell shaped to 4 cm, usually on the bare tree before leaf growth. **FRUIT:** **Rounded, woody capsules to 7 cm** across with a wavy edge, brown-black when mature, splitting on the tree to set free many light **winged seeds**. Capsules may hang on the tree for 2 years.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

**Seed:** Seeds profusely. Germination rate 50-85 %. No. of seeds per kg: 63,000-80,000.

**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 so that few plants or crops can grow below.

