

Blue Jacaranda
Jacaranda
Mimosifolia



Jacaranda mimosifolia, commonly called Black poui, Blue Jacaranda, Jacarand belongs to the Bignoniaceae (Trumpet-creeper family), which contains other genera containing some well-known species including Bignonia, Catalpa, Marrkamia, Spathodea, Tabebuia and Tecoma. The plant is native to central and eastern South America, including Uruguay, parts of Argentina (Entre Rios, Jujuy, Salta, and Tucuman), Paraguay (Alto Paraguay, Cordillera) and as far as Bolivia. Some of the popular common names of the plant are Jacaranda, Xicranda, Brazilian rose wood, Black poui, Blue Jacaranda, Jacarand, green ebony, mimosa-leaved jacaranda, mimosa-leaved jacaranda, Fern Tree and sharp-leaved jacaranda. Older sources call it Jacaranda acutifolia, but it is nowadays more usually classified as Jacaranda mimosifolia. In scientific usage, the name “jacaranda” refers to the genus Jacaranda, which has many other members, but in horticultural and everyday usage, it nearly always means the blue jacaranda.

Plant Description

Blue Jacaranda is a fast growing, striking ornamental, deciduous or semi-evergreen tree that grows about 5-15 m tall and up to 20-25 m on favorable sites. Bole is almost always short and malformed; it can be up to 40 – 50cm in diameter. The plant is found growing in bush land, grassland, wooded ravines, riverbanks, drier or mesic areas, in savanna and other grasslands, riparian woodland and other riverside habitats, also in

forests and in sheltered situations such as in wooded ravines. Bark is thin and grey-brown in color, smooth when the tree is young though it eventually becomes finely scaly rough, with shallow grooves. Twigs are slender and slightly zigzag; they are a light reddish-brown in color.



Traditional uses and benefits of Blue Jacaranda

- The bark and roots of this species are used to treat syphilis.
- Infusions of the flowers are used to treat amoebic dysentery in Guatemala and Mexico.

- Flowers, leaves and bark are administered for the treatment of Neuralgia and Varicose Veins and generally against infections.
- The tree is used to treat hepatitis.
- In folk tradition the flowers, leaves and bark are used to ease neuralgia and varicose veins.
- Hot Jacaranda leaf baths treat wounds and skin infections.
- Tree also helps in the treatment of acne.
- Teaspoon of juice obtained from the leaves of Jacaranda mimosifolia cures health problems associated with venereal diseases.
- Leaf extract or juice can also be applied externally for relief from sores or ulcers caused by venereal diseases.
- Infusion can be used internally for relief from syphilitic sores.
- Volatile oil obtained from Jacaranda leaves and bark has been found to be effective in the treatment of buboes.
- It has been used as a natural remedy for treating bacterial infections, gonorrhoea, syphilis and leukemia.
- It is also used to treat neuralgia, varicose veins, acne, treat wounds and skin infections.



Other facts

- Timber of *J. mimosifolia* is used for interior carpentry and poles and to make small items such as tool handles and carvings.
- It is also used for fuel.
- *J. mimosifolia* provides pleasant open shade and is an effective windbreak, but is most widely planted as an ornamental.
- Bark extracts are also used to suppress the hatching of larval soil nematodes.
- *J. mimosifolia* is used as bee forage and is an excellent source of nectar for African honey bees in Ethiopia.