

# *Jacaranda mimosifolia*: Jacaranda<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

Soft, delicate, fernlike, deciduous foliage and dense terminal clusters of lavender-blue, lightly fragrant, trumpet-shaped flowers make this large, spreading tree an outstanding specimen planting. The striking blooms can appear any time from April through August (most often May), and are sometimes present before the fresh, new, light green leaves appear in spring. Flowering is reportedly best following a winter with several nights in the upper 30's. Jacaranda may flower best when grown in poor soil. Jacarandas can reach 25 to 40 feet in height with an equal or greater spread, and the bent or arching trunks are covered with light brown bark.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Jacaranda mimosifolia*

**Pronunciation:** jack-uh-RAN-duh

mih-moe-sih-FOLE-ee-uh

**Common name(s):** jacaranda

**Family:** *Bignoniaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 9B through 11 (Figure 2)

**Origin:** native to southern and central South America

**UF/IFAS Invasive Assessment Status:** not considered a problem species at this time, may be recommended (North, Central, South)



Figure 1. Full Form - *Jacaranda mimosifolia*: jacaranda  
Credits: UF/IFAS

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**Uses:** parking lot island 100-200 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; street without sidewalk; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; shade; specimen



Figure 2. Range

## Description

**Height:** 25 to 40 feet  
**Spread:** 45 to 60 feet  
**Crown uniformity:** irregular  
**Crown shape:** vase, spreading  
**Crown density:** open  
**Growth rate:** fast  
**Texture:** fine

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate  
**Leaf type:** bipinnately compound, odd-pinnately compound; made up of 20 secondary leaflets per primary leaflet  
**Leaf margin:** entire



Figure 3. Full Form - *Jacaranda mimosifolia*: Jacaranda  
Credits: UF/IFAS

**Leaf shape:** obovate, rhomboid

**Leaf venation:** unknown

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 9 to 18 inches; primary leaflets are 5 inches; secondary leaflets are ¼ inch

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** lavender to violet purple

**Flower characteristics:** very showy; lightly fragrant; emerges on numerous 12-18" long panicles

**Flowering:** spring and summer



Figure 4. Flower - *Jacaranda mimosifolia*: jacaranda  
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## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round, disk-like capsule

**Fruit length:** 3 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; not showy; fruit/leaves a litter problem

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/branches:** branches droop; showy; typically one trunk; no thorns

**Bark:** light brown, smooth, becoming blocky and rough with age

**Pruning requirement:** needed for strong structure

**Breakage:** susceptible to breakage

**Current year twig color:** gray, brown

**Current year twig thickness:** thick

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown





Figure 5. Fruit - *Jacaranda mimosifolia*: jacaranda  
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Figure 7. Bark - *Jacaranda mimosifolia*: jacaranda  
Credits: Gritta Hasing, UF/IFAS



Figure 6. Fruit Open - *Jacaranda mimosifolia*: jacaranda  
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## Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun

**Soil tolerances:** sand; loam; clay; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** none

## Other

**Roots:** can form large surface roots

**Winter interest:** no

**Outstanding tree:** no

**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** unknown

**Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

## Use and Management

The light, dappled shade makes jacaranda well-suited for cooling patios, but it probably should not be used near pools due to the abundant leaf and flower drop. Jacaranda makes an ideal street tree, creating a spectacular sight when in full bloom. The arching branch habit is ideal for creating a canopy over a street or boulevard. Be sure to plant only those trees which have one central trunk and major limbs well-spaced apart for street tree and other high-use areas. Unpruned trees can become hazardous as they split apart at the crotches. Once properly trained and pruned, jacaranda is fairly strong-wooded and less messy than royal poinciana.

Heaviest-flowering when grown in full sun, small trees of jacaranda can tolerate light shade and will grow quickly. They thrive in sandy, well-drained soils but should be watered during dry periods. Prune branches so they remain less than half the diameter of the trunk to help keep the plant intact and increase durability.

'Alba' is a white-flowered cultivar which has a longer blooming period but sparser blooms. There are other cultivars available.

Propagation is by softwood cuttings, grafting, or by seed. Seedlings often take a long time to bloom so grafted trees or those rooted from cuttings are preferred.

## **Pests**

No pests are of major concern.

## **Diseases**

Mushroom root rot is a problem on poorly-drained soil.

## **Reference**

Koeser, A. K., Hasing, G., Friedman, M. H., and Irving, R. B. 2015. Trees: North & Central Florida. University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.