Jacaranda mimosifolia *Bignoniaceae* Brazil

**Common names: English:** Jacaranda.

**Ecology:** A popular tree widely grown as an ornamental throughout the high and lowland tropics. It grows in most soils except water- logged ones, and is deep rooted. It prefers highland areas but can also grow in some drier ones. It is common in most towns of Uganda, particularly Fort Portal, 1,100-1,600 m.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (tool handles, carving), poles, 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: Bipinnate 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, coppicing, 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, particularly in dry areas.