

## *Jacaranda*, *Mimosa-Leaved Ebony*

### GENERAL

Origin	: Mediterranean, sub-tropical, tropical
Vigour	: fast growing
Humidity	: semi-humid, very humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out
Maintenance	: moderate

### CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: low (600 ppm)
Hardiness	: 0°C

### SHAPE

Type	: tree
Height	: 10 m-20 m
Spread	: 8 m-10 m
Foliage	: deciduous

### FLOWER

Colour	: light blue, secondary: light lilac
Size	: 15 cm - 20 cm
Period	: March - May

### FRUIT

Type of fruit	: capsule
Fruit size	: 5 cm - 6 cm
Toxicity	: inedible

Native to tropical South America, this deciduous tree is an eye-catcher in full flower with large panicles of lilac or pale blue. These appear in spring before the foliage fully forms. Flowers may appear again in autumn, but less obviously, because of the dense bipinnate leaves. They resemble those of some acacias – hence its species' name *mimosifolia* – but may immediately be distinguished for their opposite phyllotaxy. *Jacaranda* comes from the vernacular Brazilian name. They grow fast to a height of about 10 metres and equivalent width in sunny positions when the soil is fertile and frequently watered. The soil should contain compost and be fast-draining. Unfavourable conditions such as compacted soil or continual drought will lead to dead branches. The shallow-growing roots must not be damaged. *Jacaranda* is not often seen in Arriyadh; it is not particularly well suited to the climate and its growth often comes to a standstill. In Arriyadh's coldest regions, the *Jacaranda*'s twigs may freeze, but trees soon recover just as if they had been pruned. The tree can be cut back in late winter. Large, flat, red-brown fruits somehow resemble ravioli and reveal seeds that easily germinate if watered for 24 hours before sowing. *Jacarandas* may be grown in pots for their attractive fern-like leaves, but flowers will not appear on such plants. Mature trees are flat-topped and their lacy foliage creates light summer shade. With summer humidity, they make specimens for pedestrian areas. In Arriyadh, unfortunately, they are not very successful.

