

Peltophorum pterocarpum – Yellow Flame Tree / Yellow Poinciana / Copperpod

This is a fast growing small to medium tree growing up to 6m tall native to NT and tropical SE Asia and has now naturalised in many parts of Australia. It is found naturally growing in open forest but also monsoon forest and closed forest on heavy soils or river flood plains.

This is a deciduous to semi deciduous tree with a spreading crown of mid green bipinnate leaves and yellow, crumpled, aromatic flowers in Summer on large panicles 30 – 50cm long. These put on quite a show and make a fantastic feature especially as an avenue planting. These are followed by large, flattened seed pods that ripen to a copper colour.

Grows best in tropical to subtropical climates especially those that have a marked dry season. Prefers a full sun position and is adaptable to a wide range of soil types and conditions.

A fantastic ornamental, street tree, avenue planting, shade tree, used in reforestation programs and in Agroforestry as well as being used as a green manure or fodder.

Propagation

Pre-treatment is required due to the hard seedcoat, this can be done by scarifying the seed. There are a few methods you can try, use which works best for your requirements.

- Abrasion - Gently abrade one end of the seedcoat with sandpaper to reveal the seed underneath
- Acid Treatment - Soften in diluted acid
- Hot Water treatment - immersing in boiling water for 2 minutes then soaking in cold water for 24 hours.

Sow seed in a light well drained seed raising mix, keeping moist but not wet and in a warm spot out of direct sunlight.

Best grown in a pot for a year before transplanting to the garden.