

Jacaranda species

An extremely dependable and relatively trouble free, pest resistant, fast growing, tree that is tolerant of marginal care although the adult tree should be pruned lightly every other year and marginally drought-resistant once established, giving a spectacular and long lasting floral display.

Its fine foliage makes this tree especially attractive at close range. The spectacular bloom in late spring adds to its value as a feature plant.

The tree creates pleasant, open shade and can be used effectively to screen views. Tolerates cold to about 0°C although it can be grown in a container and treated as a houseplant in the colder months and can bloom in its container in colder climates.

Jacaranda is an easy species to grow.

Propagation

Propagation is straightforward without any need to pre-treat seed. Propagate in any commercial seed raising or potting mix. Prick out into individual tubes after the second leaf has formed or at any time before it reaches about 10cm in size. Grow on to at least 20cm and then plant out in its final site in a sunny position, preferably after the danger of frost has passed. Any soil suits although a medium loam is most preferable, water in well and until established and then as needed.

Propagation is straightforward and no pretreatment of seed is required. Sow seed in a medium of one part coarse sand, one part fine sand and one part chopped peat moss. Sow the seed on the surface of the media and cover lightly. Keep the media moist but not damp.

Prick out at about 5cm into a larger pot or tube with a depth of at least 100mm and grow on until at least 50 centimetres tall. Plant out in a full sun position in any well-drained soil with a neutral pH.

Jacaranda seed are best potted up immediately upon receipt as they have a habit of drying out in transit. If the top leafshoot on the plant is wilting or drooping then place the plant in a bucket of water for a day with the water covering the rootball and then plant out.

With jacaranda seedlings this is a general indication of underwatering, but be careful not to go too far the other way. Jacaranda seedlings at this stage prefer a spot out of the wind, with some shade from intense afternoon sun and moderate watering. Use a good rich potting mix and apply a weak tea mixture fish fertiliser like Seasol upon initial potting up and then perhaps fortnightly as needed.