

## Tabebuia species

*Tabebuia chrysantha* is commonly known as the Golden Trumpet Tree for its trumpet shaped golden yellow flowers. A rounded tree from 5 to 8m tall, it has upright habit, often with ropy spreading to semi-weeping branches and lance-shaped, mid green leaves covered with tiny hairs. The spectacular trumpet shaped golden yellow flowers are sweetly scented to 10cm in length and 5cm in diameter. The young leaves, young branches and flower buds are covered with tiny golden yellow hairs, giving this tree a wonderful golden/olive cast.

Occurring naturally from Mexico to Columbia it occurs in areas with Spring drought followed by rain, hence their tendency to hold foliage until Spring, defoliate, bloom and re-leaf, although in the cooler areas of Australia it is fully deciduous. This tree is related to the Jacaranda and if you can grow Jacaranda then you can grow this one too as it is actually a little hardier, taking temperatures to about -3°C.

An easy plant to grow, it is best in full sun and in a range of soils. Water freely in the new growth and flowering season and sparingly during Winter months.

### Propagation

**When to sow** – In warm areas at any time. In frost prone areas after the danger of frost has passed.

**Where to sow** – In full sun or part sun. Prefers a medium loam to sandy soil but will take almost any soil.

**Cultivation** – Fill a pot or seedling tray with a potting mix of 2 parts of fine sand to one part of a good medium potting mix. Wet thoroughly and compress. Sow seeds thinly on the surface and keep mixture moist. Cover with clear polythene until germination. Place in a warm shady position to germinate. Thin out or on pot seedlings if crowded. Transplant preferably at about 5cm, water in well and water regularly until established and then as needed. Protect against snails and slugs.