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Casearia praecox

[Synonyms : *Gossypiospermum praecox*]

WEST INDIAN BOXWOOD is a tree. Native to Venezuela and the West Indies it has small flowers.

It is also known as *Agracejo* (Cuban), Boxwood, Jamaica boxwood, Maracaibo boxwood, *Palo blanco* (Dominican), Venezuelan box, and Zapetero (Colombian, English and Venezuelan).

Praecox is Latin (very early, premature, ripe before the time).

West Indian boxwood has virtually superseded box (*Buxus sempervirens*) in commercial use. It has also been used for carving, turning and inlaying.

This hard, light-coloured wood is used today commercially for making mathematical instruments, engraving blocks, spindles, inlay work and jewellers' burnishing wheels.