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Jacaranda mimosifolia

[Synonyms : *Jacaranda acutifolia*, *Jacaranda chelonia*, *Jacaranda mimosaeifolia*, *Jacaranda ovalifolia*, *Jacaranda ovatifolia*]

JACARANDA (Czech, Danish, English, French, German) is a deciduous tree. Native to Bolivia and north-western Argentina, it has small, mauve or purplish-blue flowers. It is also known as Beautiful blue Brazilian, Black poui, Blue haze tree, Blue jacaranda, Brazilian rosewood, *Faux Palissandre* (French), Fern leaf jacaranda, Fern tree, *Framboyant bleu* (French), *Jacarandá* (Portuguese, Spanish), *Jacarandabaum* (German), Jack tree of Brazil, *Jakaranda* (German, Swedish), *Jakarando mimosifolia* (Esperanto), *Jambul merak* (Malay), *Mucakaranda* (Kikuyu), *Palisandertræ* (Danish), Rosewood tree, and *Žakaranda mimózolistá* (Czech).

In 1998 the World Conservation Monitoring Centre issued the first global list (referred to colloquially as the 'Red List') of threatened plants. The destruction of jacaranda's native habitat in Argentina and Bolivia has led to the tree's inclusion on this List as it is now thought to be rare.

Mimosifolia is made up of the genus name *Mimosa* and Latin *-folia* (leaved) components meaning 'with leaves like those of that genus'.

Pretoria in South Africa where the jacaranda was introduced in 1904 is known to many as 'Jacaranda City' because so many of its avenues are lined with the trees.

The durable and prominently brown-lined, dull white wood has long been prized for veneering. The compact wood also recommends it for general carpentry.

Medicinally, bark and leaves have been used in remedies for some venereal diseases, the powdered leaves have been used to treat wounds, and a lotion made from infused bark has been applied externally on ulcers.