

Tree Seed Information Leaflet



Jacaranda mimosifolia

Species: *Jacaranda mimosifolia* D.Don.

Family: Bignoniaceae

Common name: Jacaranda (English)

Local name: Mucakaranda (Kikuyu)
Umosaria (Kisii)

Description: *Jacaranda mimosifolia* is a deciduous tree up to 20m high. Bark is pale grey and smooth, rough and peeling with age. Leaves are fern-like and feathery with numerous tiny leaflets, which are pointed at apex. Flowers are mauve-blue, bell-shaped, in clusters, flowering when the tree is almost leafless. Mature fruits are brown to black, flattened round woody capsules about 7cm in diameter, splitting on the tree to release numerous light seeds with transparent wings.

Distribution: The species is native to Brazil. It grows throughout the highlands up to 2,200m. Grows in most soils except waterlogged areas. It is very common in Nairobi.

Flowering and fruiting: Flowers in October/November, fruit maturity takes about 6-8 months. Seeds can be collected between March and May.

Seed collection method: Mature fruits collected from the crown by spreading a net or canvas under the tree and climbing to hand pick the fruits or shake the branches to release the fruits.

Seed extraction and drying and cleaning: Mature brown, round capsules are dried by spreading them on wooden trays or canvas sheet until they split open to release the seeds. After extraction, the seeds are cleaned by hand sorting to remove unwanted materials. Seeds are dried to required moisture content (< 10%) by spreading in thin layer and turning regularly under shade or in the drying room.

Seed weight: There are about 63,000-80,000 seeds per kg

Seed Sowing and Germination: Seeds of this species germinate within 7 to 20 days. The expected germination rate of mature and healthy seed lot is between 50 and 80%. Seed pretreatment is not necessary. Seeds are sown by broadcasting them thinly and evenly on a well-prepared seedbed (containing sand or a mixture of sand and soil). They are then covered with a thin layer of soil. The seedbed is then cover with a light mulch (dry grass) to keep it moist. Watering is done regularly (morning and evening) checking daily for any emergent seedling. Mulch is removed immediately germination starts. The young seedlings are transplanted when they are large enough to handle (4-5

leaves). Seedlings can be transplanted to pots or polythene tubes containing soil mixed with NPK fertilizer at the rate of 30–40grams per 20liters of soil. Seedlings are planted out when they are 30cm tall (4–6months).

End Uses: The species is widely planted in urban centers along avenues, parks and gardens as an ornamental species. Other uses include fuelwood, poles, curving, and bee forage and windbreak.

For more information contact

The Director
Kenya Forestry Research Institute
P.O. Box 20412 - 00200
Nairobi

Tel: +254 722 259 778/2
+254 722 157 414
+254 734 251 888

E-mail: kefri@nbi.ispkenya.com

Website: www.kefri.org