



Plant of the Week

Jacaranda

Jacarandas are among the most spectacular of all flowering tropical trees, well known for their dense lavender-blue flowers produced in late spring and early summer.

Jacaranda mimosifolia comes from the rainforests of Bolivia and Argentina in South America, and its story is somewhat similar to that of Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata*) in eastern Australia. Both tree species have become quite rare in their native habitat as a result of excessive felling since both are highly prized for furniture and cabinet making. In rainforests, both trees grow tall and straight, but tend to develop low, rounded crowns when growing in open areas.

Jacarandas have been widely planted throughout the world to the point where many believe they come from Africa. During the Gallipoli campaign of the First World War, seeds of *Jacaranda* were collected in Cairo by an Epping nurseryman, Len Hazlewood, and sent back to Australia to the family nursery. However, elsewhere in the world, for example in Queensland and South Africa, Jacaranda is regarded as an invasive species.

This “Plant of the Week” is for LPR, who, when a student at Sydney University, counted all the Jacaranda trees in flower along the railway line between Parramatta and the city.

Alison Downing & Kevin Downing, 29.xi.2010

(唐爱森, 唐科文 - 2010 年 xi 月 29 日)

Downing Herbarium, Department of Biological Sciences



Images: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jacaranda1212.jpg>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jacaranda_mimosifolia_flowers_and_leaves.jpg