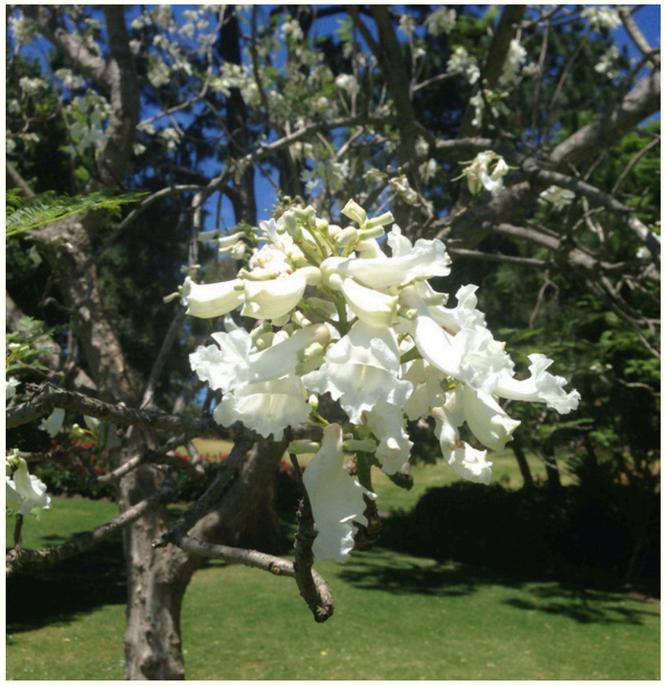
November 2026

Plant of the month

White Jacaranda



Common Name: White Jacaranda

Scientific Name: *Jacaranda mimosifolia* ‘Alba’ D.Don

Family: Bignoniaceae

Genus: *Jacaranda* – latin form of an indigenous Brazilian word

Species epithet: *mimosifolia* – latin for leaf resembling mimosa



Forty nine species of Jacaranda occur in South America but this species, first described scientifically in 1822 has become one of the worlds most popular ornamental trees.

The purple flowering form has been extensively planted in Australia since it was first introduced to Sydney by nursery man Thomas Shephard at his Chippendale nursery in the early 1850s. However, it was not until 1868, when Michael Guilfoyle solved the problem of how to propagate trees from cuttings that trees sold from his Guilfoyle’s Exotic Nursery in Double Bay started to become common in Sydney’s gardens.

Jacaranda mimosifolia is first listed in this botanic garden in 1857 and its flowering was recorded in the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper in 1868.

Jacaranda mimosifolia ‘Alba’ was first developed in Florida. It was imported into Australia by doctor and plant collector, George Hewitt in 1960 and planted in the grounds of Bellingen hosptial, where it still grows today.

The white flowers of this tree, planted in 1991 make an interesting contrast to one of Sydney’s oldest purple jacarandas on the other side of the lawn.

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Distribution

Species is native to southern Bolivia and north-western Argentina and naturalised in parts of South Africa.

Native Habitat

Species from seasonally dry forests.

Description

Deciduous tree growing to 12-15m tall and wide, with a single main trunk. Leaves are bipinnate, bright green and feather or fernlike. Leaves turn deep golden in August – September before falling.

Flowers

Species has tubular, hyacinth blue flowers produced in large panicles at the end of branches (terminal). Flowers of the white form differ only in colour. Flowers carry a faint scent and are pollinated by bees.

Fruit

Fruit is a flat, disc-shaped woody follicle 5-6cm across, green at first but brown and very hard when mature. Seeds are flat, rectangular, and winged, to 5mm across. The white form does not come true to type from seed and is propagated vegetatively by grafting or cuttings.

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