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***Couroupita guianensis***

Cannonball Tree, Bala de Canon, Macacarecuia

**Lecythidaceae**

Flower Display: C



Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

Early June



Saint George's, Grenada

Late May

This tree is a botanical curiosity. It bears its flowers on thick, tangled extrusions that grow on the trunk, below the foliage branches. The extrusions are from 2 - 6 feet long. At night, the 6 petaled, orange-red flowers are strongly perfumed. There are many stamens in the center of the flowers. The flowers are attached to an upwardly bent, white, fleshy disk. The tree gets its common English name from its heavy, brown, spherical fruits. While flowers are short-lived, fruits take up to a year to mature. The fruits do not open but fall from the tree and rot with an unpleasant odor, unlike that of the flowers. Where native, *C. guianensis* is a tree of river banks and lowlands, subjected to periodic flooding.

Although a plant of moist soils, it grows well under dry conditions. A stout, straight, tree, it possesses a dense, often narrow crown, with leaves clustered at the tip of branches. In Florida, leaves tend to lack a strong green color and fruits are not commonly produced in the large numbers they are in Tropical America. This tree is not recommended for small yards. If properly placed, you will not need to prune it but you should expect many fallen leaves and potential damage from the heavy fallen fruits. Fertilize it with a balanced fertilizer at the start of the dry and rainy seasons.



Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Coral Gables, Florida

Late April

***Couroupita guianensis***

**Origin:** Honduras to Northern South America to Peru

**Zone:** 10a - 12b, 28°F minimum

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Flowering Month(s):** March - September

**Flowering Days:** Not Known

**Leaf Persistence:** Briefly Deciduous

**Messiness:** High

**Salt Tolerance:** Low

**Drought Tolerance:** Medium

**Nutritional Requirements:** Medium

**Typical Dimension:** 70'x45'

**Uses:** Park, Shade, Specimen

Fort Myers, Florida

Late April

St. George's, Grenada

Late May



**Leaves:** Simple, alternate, narrowly elliptic to 10 inches long and 4 inches wide

**Flowers:** 6 petals, orange-red with white central disk held on racemes

**Fruits:** Capsules, globose, brown, 4-8 inches in diameter, contains up to 300 seeds

Tropical Flowering Trees List  
 Questions/Comments:  
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