

## *Jacaranda copaia*

Pioneer Jacaranda, Huamansamana, Copaia,  
Guabanday, Pelo de Buda

**Bignoniaceae**  
Flower Display: B



Young trees near San Vito, Costa Rica Early November



Costa Rica Late October



Costa Rica Early November

On young trees, leaves grow directly from the trunk.

In the fields and pastures of southern Costa Rica, *Jacaranda copaia* stands tall, straight, and sturdy. It is a pioneering species that is apt to colonize cleared lands. Where it is rare, it is desired by ranchers, but it may become a pastoral weed where common. The appearance of a young *J. copaia* is similar to an immature *Schizolobium parahyba* or, at least, a large tree fern. The young *J. copaia* is distinguished by its long, unbranched trunk crowned by a parasol of green leaves. The huge leaves grow directly from the erect trunk. Adapted to dry and hot, humid areas, mature trees are also found protruding above the canopy of dense forests as they reach for light. In fields or in forests, older trees usually remained unbranched for more than 50 percent of their entire heights and are topped by a vase-shaped crown. In fields, they are easily recognized because of their unique appearance. In forests, their blue flowers are above competing vegetation making them identifiable from a great distance. *J. copaia* flowers with most or all of its leaves on the tree. Flowers are held high atop the canopy and are best viewed some distance from the tree. When flowering, there is a persistent dropping of fused corollas. When used as an ornamental, it should be planted where its carpet of blue can be tolerated, if not appreciated. The bark is rough, and dark gray, with a weathered look. This is an excellent framer for tall buildings and for giving definition to broad roadways.

### **Pioneer Jacaranda**

**Syn:** *Bignonia copia*, *Jacaranda paraensis*,  
*J. amazonensis*, *J. procera*, *J. spectabilis*

**Origin:** Central America, Northern and  
Western South America, Brazil

**Zone:** 10a – 12b, 26°F minimum

**Flowering Month(s):** March—May

**Flowering Days:**

**Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen or  
Semi-Deciduous

**Messiness:** Medium

**Salt Tolerance:** Low

**Drought Tolerance:** Medium

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Nutritional Requirements:** Medium

**Potential Pests:**

**Typical Dimension:** 62'x28'

**Uses:** Garden, Park, Patio, Specimen,  
Streetscape



Near San Vito, Costa Rica

Early November

The crown of a young tree. Leaves grow directly from the trunk.

Tropical Flowering Trees List  
 Questions/Comments:  
 Email: [brownsh@leegov.com](mailto:brownsh@leegov.com)



Costa Rica

Late October

**Leaves:** Bipinnate, opposite; young trees with leaves to 6 feet long; smaller on mature trees to 40 inches long  
**Flowers:** Funnelform, blue, on large terminal panicles  
**Fruits:** Capsules, flat, nearly round to oval, two-celled, dehiscent, to 5 inches long, 3 inches wide.



Costa Rica

Late October

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