



Stephen H. Brown
Horticulture Agent,
Tropical Flowering Tree Specialty

Lee County Extension
Fort Myers, Florida
brownsh@ufl.edu

Peltophorum dubium

Yellow Poinciana, Ibirá-pitá,
Arbol de Artigas, Cana-Fístula

Fabaceae

Flower Display: A+



Fort Myers, Florida

Late June

P. dubium is commonly confused with the similar looking *P. petrocarpum*. However, *P. dubium* is a prettier bloomer and more graceful tree than the latter. It has a rather slender bole, is high branching, with about 40 to 60 percent of the tree being cleared trunk. Its fine leaflets give it a graceful look, and its umbrella-like shape makes it a useful shade tree. At flowering, *P. dubium* is completely covered with bright yellow, upright panicles. The species is a poor bloomer in alternate years. In some cases, trees only several feet apart alternate in providing a magnificent floral display in successive years, primarily from late June to late July. Even trees grown together, that bloom the same

year, often flower weeks apart. *P. dubium* blooms with all its foliage intact. However, shortly after flowering it produces a multitude of seedpods and drops all its leaves soon thereafter. These pods can persist on the tree for well over a year, and when the tree is deciduous, may give it a rather shabby appearance. The degree to which *P. dubium* flowers apparently affects the extent of its deciduousness. In a year of heavy flowering, the tree will become completely deciduous. The period of complete deciduousness is as long as 8 months. In the off year, or with little flowering, the tree will maintain most or all of its foliage throughout the year. Continue on next page



Fort Myers, Florida

Late June

Peltophorum dubium

Incorrect: *Baryxylum dubium*, *P. vogelianum*

Origin: Cuba, Hispanola, Brazil to Uruguay

Zone: 8a—12b, 12°F minimum

Growth Rate: Fast

Flowering Month(s): June—October

Flowering Days: 24

Leaf Persistence: Mostly Deciduous in alternate years from September—May

Messiness: Low

Salt Tolerance: Medium

Drought Tolerance: High

Nutritional Requirements: Medium

Typical Dimension: 40' x 45'

Uses: Garden, Park, Shade, Specimen

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Fallen leaflets and petals seem to fade away into lawns and are not much of a litter concern. Young trees are fast growers, up to 6 feet in one year. The species is storm resistant. *P. dubium* can be invasive, primarily in central Florida. *P. dubium* var. *adanatum* is smaller and would make an excellent garden tree.

[Tropical Flowering Trees List](#)

Questions/Comments:

Email: brownsh@leegov.com

Fort Myers samples of early August



Leaves: Bipinnate, alternate, to 18 inches with 12-20 pairs of pinnae, 20-30 pairs of leaflets per pinna

Flowers: Golden yellow, mildly fragrant, with crinkled petals, borne on open terminal panicles

Fruits: Pods, flat, indehiscent, to 4 inches long with 1-3 seeds