

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 an 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.



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.

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