

FS Commercial Landscape News

"We Keep the Grass Greener"

Tree of the Month – Jacaranda mimosifolia



J. mimosifolia, is rightly considered one of the most beautiful flowering trees in the world. Deciduous only at the end of winter when it loses its fern-like foliage, it lies dormant until spring or early summer when it becomes a cloud of mauve-blue flowers.

When the flowers fall, they form a carpet of blue. Beautiful lavender flowers hang in clusters 6-8" long, bloom April-July. Brown seedpods 1-2" long, develop in fall, eventually drop. Smooth, brown bark.

SIZE: Medium (Height: 20-35'; Spread: 15-25').

GROWTH RATE: Moderate.

FOLIAGE: Light green, fernlike, compound leaves with oval leaflets 1/2" long. Fall foliage is yellow and drops February-March; new foliage often appears immediately.

TREE CARE: Moderate. Requires annual pruning; removal of suckers; sidewalk cleanup during flower and seedpod drop. Stake and prune when young to develop good branch structure.



Obnoxious Plants

I'm going to give you a list of plants that I consider totally obnoxious. They are a gardeners nightmare. Bermuda grass is the worse. *Bermuda grass* in a shrub planter comes back after you pull it or spray or dig it up or light it on fire. It can be controlled but it is tuff. Sometimes its just easier to turn the planter into a lawn if the infestations are bad. On the other hand, it makes a good play lawn. It is tuff and durable and has a low water requirement. *Crabgrass* turns brown in the winter and looks very ugly in year round green grasses like fescue. Pre emergent chemicals can control it if applied in early spring. If you wait till winter, you might as well re-seed.

The *Garlic*



Tip of the Month

An annual is a plant that completes its life cycle in one season. Since there are four seasons, annuals need to be replaced 4 times a year. With Southern California weather, annuals can often go two seasons if temperatures are moderate, but don't count on it.

Trees that often Break up Walkways

Ash, Alder, Sycamore, Silk Floss, Elms, Ficus, Mulberry Magnolia, Eucalyptus Globulus, Brazilian Pepper and some pines.

Plant has a beautiful purple flower, however if you don't like that smell, I would advise not planting this plant. Personally I think it stinks. *Bamboo* is like bermuda grass, it is almost impossible to get rid of. Please don't plant it. It is out of control along the Santa Ana river and has taken over many of our native plants that our birds and wildlife live on. *Dandelion* - to me there is nothing dandy about this plant (weed) unless it is dying. Turf supreme w/Trimec works well on it. *Escallonia* and *Veronica* seem to get a root fungus very easily, I would avoid planting them. *Oleanders* of course are poisonous and susceptible to Pierces Disease which is spread by the glassy winged sharpshooter. Oleanders have been doing very poorly over the last 2-3 years.

Lawns

This is the time of year that lawns can look their best, if they are watered properly and fertilized. Any bermuda grass or crabgrass is green this time of year, which makes all the grasses blend together. Everything is green. Not that we want all these grasses together, but after about 10 years, lawns do tend to become invaded by seeds and stolens which eventually grow into your lawn. You can't spray a grass in a grass, chemicals are not that selective.

We have to be careful not to add too much water this time of year. Its easy to do, because some sprinkler systems do not have proper coverage. Instead of adding an extra head to fix the problem, irrigators turn up the time on the entire line, then you develop ruts which never go away. This is something we are constantly looking for. Too much water and too little water are critical this time of year.

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