**Tabebuia donnell-smithii**

**LOCAL NAMES**
English (primavera, gold tree)

**BOTANIC DESCRIPTION**
Tabebuia donnell-smithii is a large tree, main trunk almost always of good form, growing straight for 7-13 m, even when open grown; buttresses and fluting often occur in large trees; branchlets terete to subtetragonal.

Leaves simple, 1-foliolate or digitately 3-7-foliolate; leaflets mostly with simple trichomes.

Flowers bright yellow, 2-2.5 cm wide, in clusters at branch ends. Calyx thin, membranous, of the same texture as the corolla; inflorescence with the central rachis well developed. Anthers glabrous, the thecae straight, divaricate, included or sub-exserted. Ovary linear-oblong, often more or less lepidote; ovules 2-multiseriate in each locale; disk annular-pulvinate to short-cupular.

Pods 25-50 cm long, straight, pendulous, brown, dehiscent.

Seeds thin, flat, surrounded by a papery wing.

**BIOLOGY**
T. donnell-smithii flowers during the dry season when the tree is leafless and can last for almost 2 months. Pods mature 4 months after flowering. Seeds are wind dispersed.
ECOLOGY
T. donnell-smithii grows on alluvial terraces and lower colluvial slopes in forests dominated by Terminalia oblonga or Virola guatemalensis and in the Pacific semi deciduous forests. The species is a pioneer and habitually seeds in abandoned farmland, disturbed areas and roadsides in its native range. Also found in rather seasonally moist, non-flooded lowland forests.

BIOPHYSICAL LIMITS
Altitude: 0-1 000 m
Mean annual temperature: 23-28 deg C
Mean annual rainfall: 1 000-3 000 mm
Soil type: The tree is found on alluvial soils and soils derived from volcanic ash, metamorphic rock and limestone with pH from 5.5 to 7.5.

DOCUMENTED SPECIES DISTRIBUTION
Native: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico
Exotic: Costa Rica, Puerto Rico
Tabebuia donnell-smithii  
Rose  
Bignoniaceae

PRODUCTS
Fuel: T. donnell-smithi is used as fuelwood.

Timber: Heartwood pale blonde to pale brown sometimes with highly attractive greyish-black banding; sapwood not distinct; low to medium lustre; texture fine to medium; grain often interlocked and ribbon-striped; seasons and machines well, with occasional tearing when planing ribbon-striped quarter-sawn faces, specific gravity 0.52. Used for furniture, cabinetwork, veneer, flooring. Resistant to white- and brown-rot fungi and weathers well.

SERVICES
Erosion control: T. donnell-smithi develops large lateral roots that hold soils.

Shade or shelter: It provides shade.

Reclamation: The seeding characteristic can be exploited for reclamation of disturbed sites.

Ornamental: T. donnell-smithi is grown as an ornamental on account of its impressive yellow floral display.
Tabebuia donnell-smithii

Bignoniaceae

TREE MANAGEMENT
Fairly wide spacing (9 x 4.5 m) is required due to a full-light requirement and rapid growth. Young trees coppice until they reach pole size. A saw log rotation of 30 years has been suggested. Pruning is recommended to attain straight form. Weeding is recommended for the first 2 years.

GERmplasm MANAGEMENT
There are about 170 000 seeds/kg. Seeds can be stored in airtight containers at ambient temperature for up to 1 year when dried to 5-6% moisture content.
Tabebuia donnell-smithii

Bignoniaceae

FURTHER READING
http://www.mobot.org/MOBOT/Research/ven-guayana/bignoniaceae/tabebuia.html

SUGGESTED CITATION