



## GUANGO

(*Samanea saman*)

The large stately guango tree also called rain tree, came originally from South and Central America. It grows well in dry or wet areas at altitudes from sea level to 800 m. It is fast-growing and grows to a height of 26 m. It is found on the flat lands around Jamaica especially in old pastures where it was often planted for shade and on wooded land along river banks.

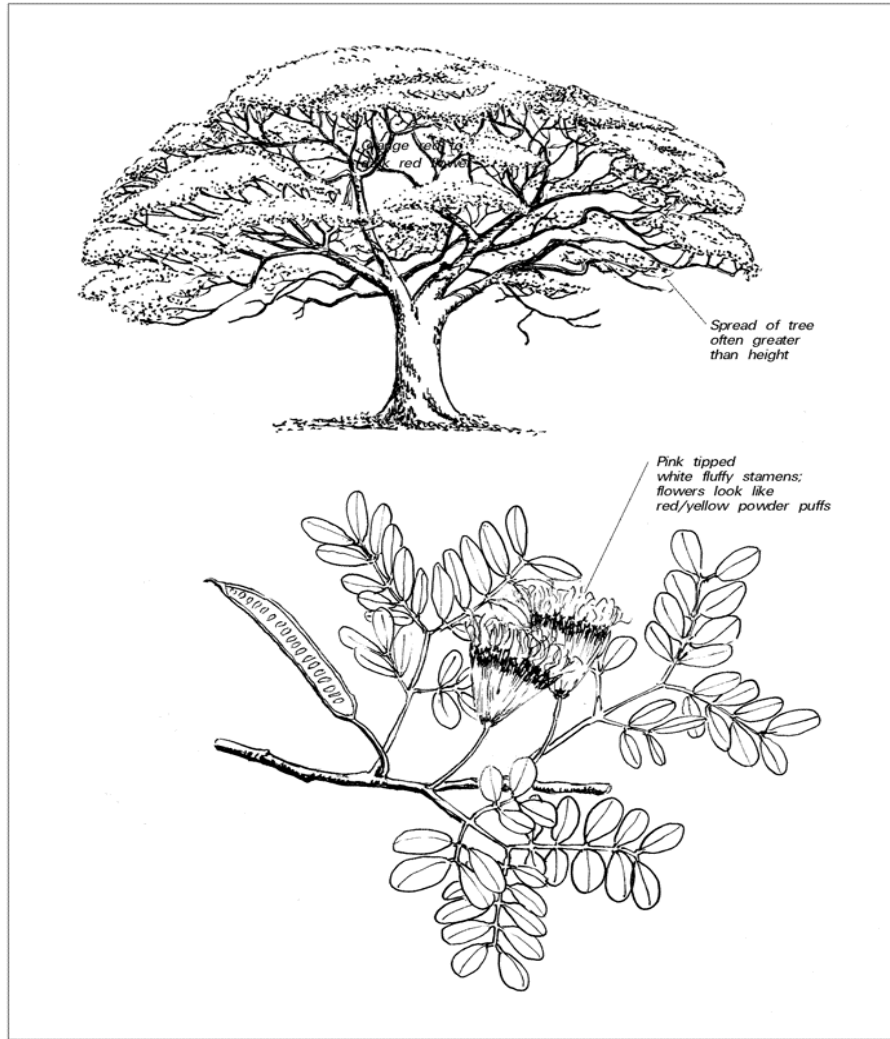
Guango trees have stout trunks and often low, spreading branches so they make excellent shade trees. The branches can spread out to 30 m.

Two to four sets of tiny leaflets (pinnae) grow off stalks central to the compound leaves of the guango. The leaves are shiny above and velvety beneath. The flowers which appear from March to May and from July to November look like yellow or red powder puffs. The fruit is a brown-black, straight pod measuring 10-25 cm long. These appear from December to May. The pods are considered to be good fodder since they are high in protein. Horses and cattle eat the pods which are sweet to the taste. Cows like to rest under the trees and can be observed there, placidly chewing their cud.

This tree has nodules on its roots containing nitrogen-fixing bacteria. This helps to fertilise the soil.

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Family: <b>Mimosaceae</b>	Species: <i>Samanea saman</i>	Author: (Jacq) Merr.
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Height: 26m	Habitat: Pastures and Plains	Persistence: Deciduous
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