



*Cassia tomentella* – family: CAELSALPINIACEAE

## VELVET BEAN TREE / VELVET CASSIA



A semi-deciduous shrub or small tree to 10 metres  
Showy bright yellow flowers late spring and summer

**Cultivation:** Hardy plant for dry conditions in well-drained soil; flowers in semi-shade or full sun.

A very ornamental tree from the seasonally dry rainforests inland from Rockhampton and south to near Boonah. The tree is now scarce in the wild due to the clearing of its natural habitat. After losing most of its leaves in the dry season, this cassia produces brilliant yellow,



perfumed flowers and new lime-green pinnate leaves on contrasting dark stems. The glossy leaves darken with age and become very distinctive. Green cylindrical seed pods turning to brown when mature. The brown seed pods are up to 30cm long and ripen in winter.



The tree is a host plant for many butterfly species including the Lemon Migrant butterfly *Catopsilia pomona*, see picture on left.