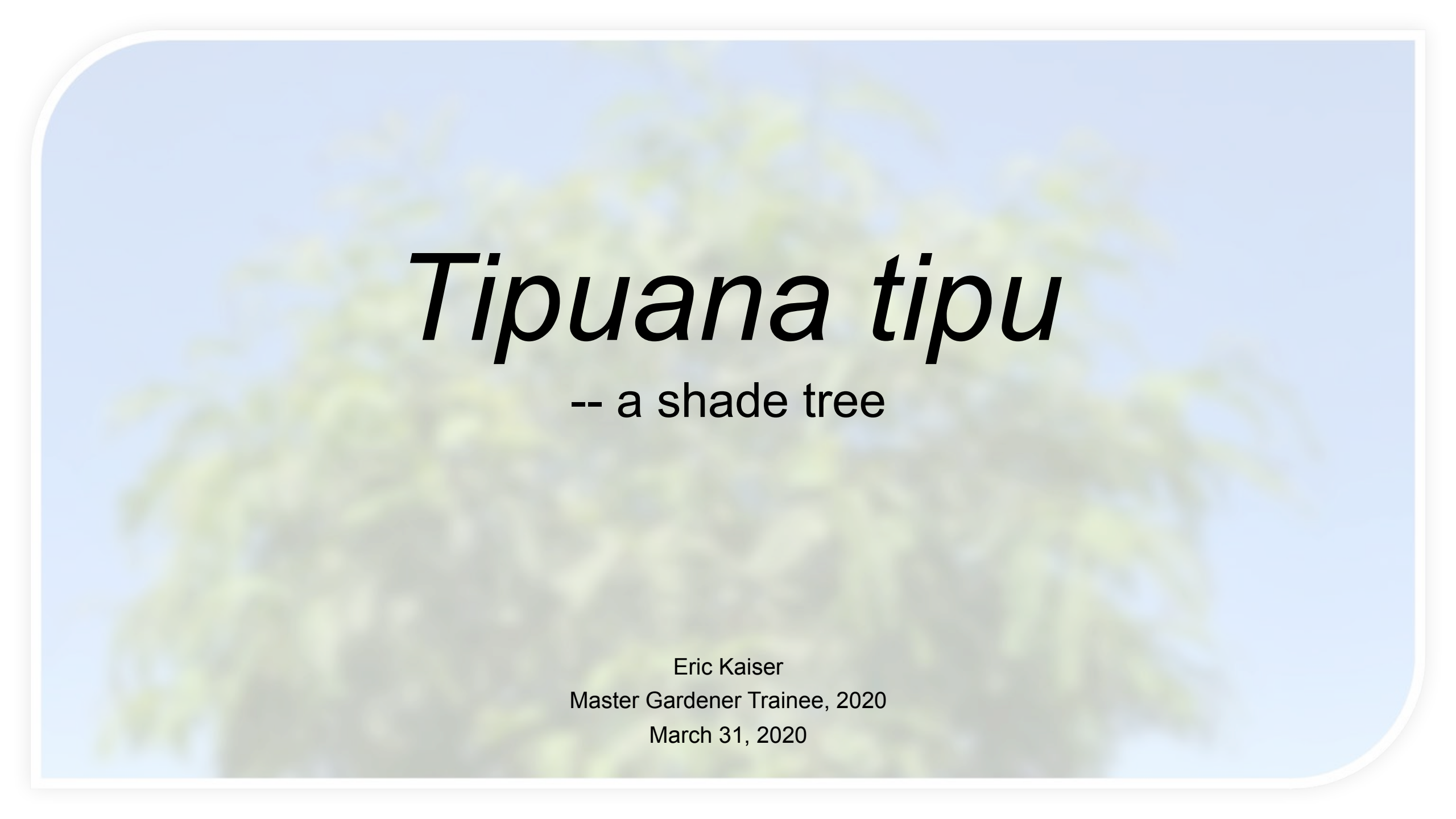




Tipuana tipu

-- a shade tree

Eric Kaiser

Master Gardener Trainee, 2020

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Tipuana tipu

Introduction

- Tipu is a fast growing shade tree
- Green pinnate compound odd leaves and showy yellow-apricot flowers. Brown seed pods 1.5-3in.
- Native to Bolivia. Introduced to California in 1897. Cultivated in San Diego by Kate Sessions in early 20th century.
- Common names: Tipa, Rosewood, Pride of Bolivia, Yellow Jacaranda.
- Deciduous to partly deciduous; in Southern California loses leaves March-April
- Rough bark, 30-50 feet high and wide
- Rounded to Umbrella shape



Taxonomic Tree

Domain: Eukaryota
Kingdom: Plantae
Phylum: Spermatophyta
Subphylum: Angiospermae
Class: Dicotyledonae
Order: Fabales
Family: Fabaceae
Subfamily: Faboideae
Genus: *Tipuana*
Species: *Tipuana tipu*

Tipuana tipu

Culture

- Tolerates drought as established tree
- Needs sun to thrive, six hours minimum daily
- Tolerates heat, cold tolerant to -4C (28F)
- Tolerates a wide range of soil types
- Grows best in acidic to mildly alkaline soil.
- Fast growth, 24-36" per year
- Needs pruning for strong branch structure
- Needs shallow planting.



Photo: <https://urbanperennials.com/product/cold-hardy-yellow-jacaranda-tipu-tree-tipuana-tipu/>

Tipuana tipu

Advantages

- Beautiful form
 - Attractive erect to umbrella shape
 - Bright green pinnate leaves, fern-like appearance
 - Abundant brilliant yellow to orange flowers
- Favorable growth in range of conditions
 - Heat tolerant when established, not cold tolerant
 - Drought tolerant
 - Rapid growth to 30-50 feet
- Attracts wildlife
 - Birds, hummingbirds
 - Butterflies
- Useful as a pasture tree
 - Fixes nitrogen, benefits pasture
 - Seeds drop and germinate readily
- Useful lumber: one of the Rosewood species



Photo: <https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/L-34.pdf>

Tipuana tipu

Disadvantages

- Significant leaf and flower drop creates litter and slipping hazard
- Drops seed pods that germinate readily
- Listed as a Class 3 Invasive Species in South Africa
- Aggressive, strong root system can damage hardscape
- Rapid growth requires pruning – lateral branches can be weak
- Host to a Psyllid species, *Platycorypha nigrivirga*, discovered in Carlsbad, with honeydew damage and wax-pellet drop which is sticky and acidic

“As a tree service company, we get year-round complaints about these trees. In early spring they look terrible before the flowers and leaves appear. In early summer they make a huge mess when the abundant flowers fall off. In mid-summer, the Psyllids drop copious amounts of sticky honeydew. By fall they have grown 12 foot long whip-like branches that hang in the street and sidewalks. Mid-winter they drop most of their leaves. And finally, by the end of winter, people are complaining about hardscape damage from invasive roots.”

- Quoted from Four Seasons Tree Care newsletter,
<https://fourseasonstc.com/tipuana-tipu/>



Source:
<https://civr.ucr.edu/invasive-species/tipu-psyllid>

Tipuana tipu

Conclusions

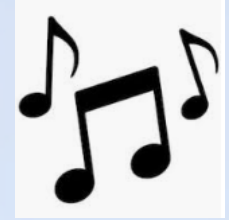
- Tipu is a fast growing shade tree with beautiful form, foliage and flowers
- Tipu has an aggressive root system, invasive pests, continuous litter drop and an invasive habit
- Planted in appropriate conditions, it is an attractive and useful tree, well-adapted to our Mediterranean climate.



Photo: <https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/Pages/tiptip/tiptip3.shtml>

Tipuana Tipu

To the tune of, “Winnie the Pooh”



1. *Tipuana tipu, Tipuana tipu,*

Family is Fabaceae, its rapid growth makes lots of shade,

Tipuana tipu, Tipuana tipu,

Deciduous, drought tolerant shade tree.

2. *Tipuana tipu, Tipuana tipu,*

When parking underneath its shade, just wash your car ‘most every day,

Tipuana tipu, Tipuana tipu,

Flowers, leaves and honeydew drop.

3. *Tipuana tipu, Tipuana tipu,*

Mind the roots, with sun and space rewards you fast with flowers and shade,

Tipuana tipu, Tipuana tipu,

Deciduous, heat tolerant shade tree.

Tipuana Tipu

Sources

Pests: <https://cistr.ucr.edu/invasive-species/tipu-psyllid>

Tree Care: <https://fourseasonstc.com/tipuana-tipu/>

General Information: SelecTree. "*Tipuana tipu* Tree Record." 1995-2020. Mar 12, 2020.
<https://selectree.calpoly.edu/tree-detail/tipuana-tipu>

Pros and Cons: <https://greengarageblog.org/19-tipu-tree-pros-and-cons>

Use in ranching, secondary source: <http://weedsnetwork.org/traction/permalink/wra5658>