

Botanical Name: *Caesalpinia mexicana*

Common Name: Mexican Bird of Paradise



Family: Fabaceae

Habitat: Roadsides, dry washes

Native Distribution: SW United States into Mexico

Elevation: Up to 5,000 ft

Hardiness: 15°F

Type: Evergreen

Size: 10' tall x 8' wide

Shape: Upright

Growth Rate: Moderately fast

Flowers: 6" yellow clustered spikes on branch ends

Bloom Season: Spring to fall

Fruit: Flat tan pod, 2-3" long, follows blooms and pops at maturity to release seeds

Foliage: Alternate, bi-pinnate, round dark-green leaflets

Exposure: Full to part sun

Shade: Somewhat dense

Water Requirements: Moderate

In the Landscape: In Phoenix, works well as an informal screen or mass border, or as background plant. If trained to a small tree, can work well in courtyards and patios. Excellent for tropical or oasis areas. Moderate litter and maintenance. No thorns.

Wildlife: Attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

Other Stuff:

- Seeds and pods are toxic.
- Needs infrequent, but deep watering and good drainage.
- Water every two weeks during the bloom season to prolong blooming.