

Botanical Name: *Ebenopsis ebano* (formerly *Pithecellobium flexicaule*)

Common Name: Texas Ebony



Family: Fabaceae

Habitat: Sandy washes, foothills, grasslands

Native Distribution: Texas into NE Mexico

Elevation: Up to 2,500 ft

Hardiness: 15°F

Type: Evergreen

Size: Up to 40' tall x 40' wide

Shape: Can be shrubby and spreading

Growth Rate: Slow

Flowers: Fragrant cream-colored flowers in clusters

Bloom Season: Spring to fall

Fruit: 4-6" flat, dark brown woody pods, slightly narrowed between seeds

Foliage: Dark green, glossy bi-pinnate leaves

Exposure: Full to part sun

Shade: Dense

Water Requirements: Very low

In the Landscape: Because it grows slowly, it can be mistaken for a small tree. But it just needs ample space in which to slowly and gracefully mature. One of the few very green desert trees. Can throw lots of litter, and has lots of thorns so put it a safe distance from walkways.

Wildlife: Bees are attracted to its flowers.

Other Stuff:

- Valued for its dark reddish-brown heartwood that is tinged with purple.
- Requires very little supplemental water, once established.
- Thorny, gray branches have a distinctive zig-zag pattern.
- Can look brushy until quite old or pruned.
- Resistant to root rot, but susceptible to the flathead stem borer.
- May be trained as either a single- or multi-trunked tree.