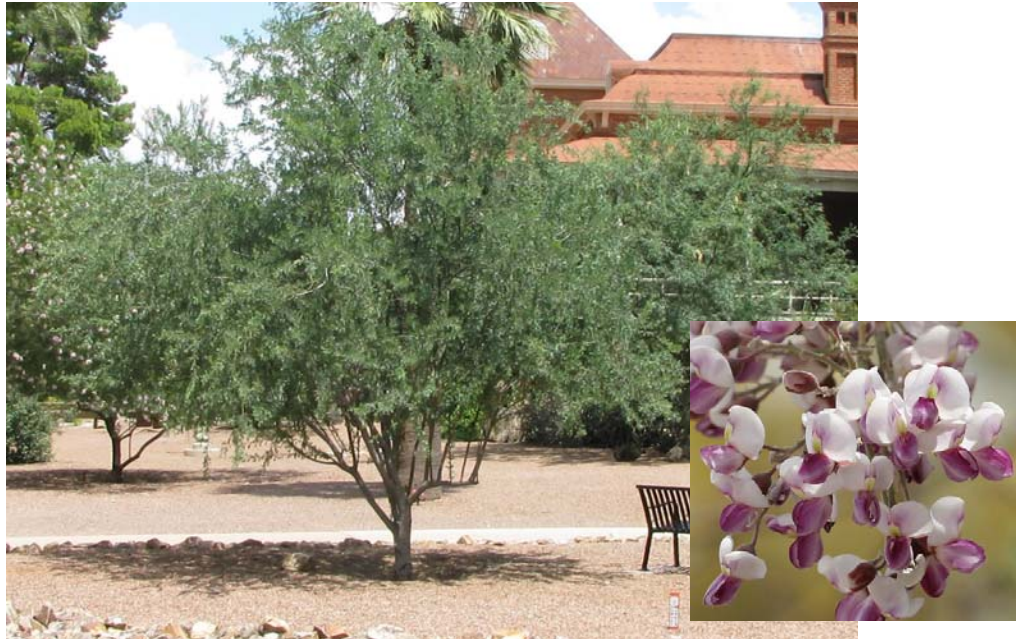


Botanical Name: *Olneya tesota*

Common Name: Ironwood, Desert Ironwood, Arizona Ironwood, Palo Fierro



Family: Fabaceae

Habitat: Washes, rocky slopes, gravelly foothills

Native Distribution: Sonoran Desert

Elevation: Up to 2,500 ft

Hardiness: 25°F

Type: Evergreen

Size: 25' tall x 25' wide

Shape: Rounded

Growth Rate: Slow

Flowers: Fragrant ½" clustered pink to lavender

Bloom Season: Late spring/early summer

Fruit: 2-1/2" tan pods, slightly narrowed between seeds

Foliage: 2" long grayish-green oval leaflets

Exposure: Full sun

Shade: Filtered

Water Requirements: Very low

***Olneya tesota* (Ironwood) in Phoenix xeriscapes:**

Ironwood is an excellent all-purpose tree and one of the best investments in Phoenix xeriscapes. Use it near a patio, around a swimming pool, or as a security screen. Low litter, thorns.

Wildlife: Desert wildlife (and humans) like the seeds, livestock will eat the leaves.

More about *Olneya tesota* (Ironwood):

- Ironwoods can be identified by a grayish trunk ringed with thorns.
- *Olneya tesota* requires little pruning and throws very little litter.
- *Olneya tesota* prefers well-drained soil and natural rainfall, but supplemental water will increase its growth rate and flowering.
- Can also be cold-deciduous.
- One of the longest-living desert trees, *Olneya tesota* has extremely dense and heavy wood.
- Can experience some problems with mistletoe.
- Ironwoods create a micro-habitat beneath their canopies as they grow; without it, desert life would disappear.