

Botanical Name: *Parkinsonia florida* (formerly *Cercidium floridum*)

Common Name: Blue Palo Verde



Family: Fabaceae

Habitat: Sandy washes and floodplains

Native Distribution: Sonoran Desert

Elevation: Up to 4,000 ft

Hardiness: 15°F

Type: Deciduous

Size: Up to 30' tall x 25' wide

Shape: Large open crown, vase-shaped

Growth Rate: Fast

Flowers: ¾" bright yellow, pea-like flowers

Bloom Season: Typically spring, sometimes summer

Fruit: 1-1/2" to 3" narrow yellowish-brown pods

Foliage: Bluish-green, bipinnately compound 1" leaves with 1 to 3 pairs of oval leaflets with a spine at the leaf nodes

Exposure: Full or reflected sun

Shade: Filtered

Water Requirements: Very low

In the Landscape: Palo Verde trees drop their leaves in the winter, so place them on the south, east, or west side for filtered shade in the summer and sun in the winter. Can be grown on turf with good drainage. Be careful not to over-water as this can lead to root borers and mistletoe.

Wildlife: Pods attract wildlife and can serve as emergency food source for livestock. Birds also like the seeds. Flowers used as a source for honey.

Other Stuff:

- Will drop their leaves to conserve water.
- Means "green stick" in Spanish, referring to its green trunk, which is used for photosynthesis.
- More drooping than the *Parkinsonia microphylla*.
- Short-lived with an average 60-year life span.
- Left untrimmed, branches will sweep the ground.
- State tree of Arizona.