

Botanical Name: *Parkinsonia microphylla* (formerly *Cercidium microphyllum*)

Common Name: Foothills Palo Verde, Little Leaf Palo Verde, Yellow Palo Verde



Family: Fabaceae

Habitat: Dry washes and plains along foothills

Native Distribution: Sonoran Desert

Elevation: 500 to 4,000 ft

Hardiness: 15°F

Type: Drought deciduous

Size: 15' tall x 15' wide

Shape: Shrub-like

Growth Rate: Slow

Flowers: 1/2" pale yellow, pea-like flowers

Bloom Season: Mid to late spring

Fruit: 2-3" light brown cylindrical pods, swollen at seeds, sharply pointed at ends

Foliage: Very tiny yellow-green leaves

Exposure: Full or reflected sun

Shade: Filtered

Water Requirements: Very low

In the Landscape: Use as a focal point (lighting will add drama) or an informal screen, in small spaces or naturalistic settings. No extra water needed once established, although periodic water will hasten growth. Unhealthy trees can be susceptible to root borers and mistletoe. Will drop some litter so not the best choice around a pool. Does have thorns on the ends of branches so keep a safe distance from walkways.

Wildlife: Pods and seeds attract desert wildlife. Tree can also serve as a nesting place for birds.

Other Stuff:

- Has crooked trunk and a wide spreading crown with many fine branches.
- Leafless for much of the year.
- Pods mature in the summer and persist on the tree.
- Initially smooth and yellow-green bark turning light brown and scaly as they age.
- Seeds and pods used by Native Americans as a staple or famine food.