

**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.