

**Botanical Name:** *Parkinsonia praecox* (formerly *Cercidium praecox*)

**Common Name:** Palo Brea



**Family:** Fabaceae

**Habitat:** Desert plains

**Native Distribution:** NW Mexico into northern South America

**Elevation:** Up to 2,500 ft

**Hardiness:** 20°F

**Type:** Evergreen

**Size:** 25' tall x 25' wide

**Shape:** Umbrella

**Growth Rate:** Moderate to fast

**Flowers:** 3/4" bright yellow, pea-like flowers

**Bloom Season:** March through May

**Fruit:** 2" light brown pods develop from flowers

**Foliage:** Small lime-green compound leaves

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Shade:** Somewhat dense

**Water Requirements:** Very low

**In the Landscape:** Use as a focal point or to shade walls that get a lot of sun. The bark is its distinguishing feature and looks almost like lime-green skin. It also has a high canopy, requiring little pruning underneath. Make sure to place it in a warm setting as it can be extremely sensitive to cold. No extra water needed once established, although periodic water will hasten growth. Unhealthy trees can be susceptible to root borers and mistletoe. Very litter, but does have 1-2" long thorns.

**Wildlife:** Offers a nesting place for birds.

**Other Stuff:**

- Larger, and often single-trunked.
- Less woody or corky with lots of thorns.
- Signature tree of downtown Phoenix where it lines many of the roadways.
- Sculptural form prized by landscape architects.