

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.