

**Botanical Name:** *Prosopis chilensis*

**Common Name:** Chilean Mesquite, Algarrobo Mesquite



**Family:** Fabaceae

**Habitat:** Washes, rocky slopes, gravelly foothills

**Native Distribution:** South America

**Elevation:** Up to 5,000 ft

**Hardiness:** 15°F

**Type:** Semi-evergreen

**Size:** 30' tall x 30' wide

**Shape:** Spreading crown

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Flowers:** 2-3" yellow or cream showy catkins

**Bloom Season:** May to June

**Fruit:** 3-5" tan pods

**Foliage:** Bi-pinnately compound, dark green fern-like leaves

**Exposure:** Full or reflected sun

**Shade:** Filtered

**Water Requirements:** Very low

**In the Landscape:** Extremely popular in Greater Phoenix residential and commercial landscapes. Generally has few or no thorns and tolerates most soils and exposures. Can even grow on turf. Ample water will propel top growth, but will also weaken the root system and may cause the tree to easily blow over. May drop its leaves with a sudden freeze, but will otherwise tolerate cooler temperatures.

**Wildlife:** Livestock will eat the seed pods as a source of food.

**Other Stuff:**

- Hybridize readily, making them sometimes difficult to distinguish.
- Some have thorns, some do not.
- Smooth bark when young, growing darker and rougher with age.
- Some litter, especially with leaf drop.
- Seeds are edible and can be crushed to make flour.