

Botanical Name: Parkinsonia aculeata

Common Name: Mexican Palo Verde, Jerusalem Thorn

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright to spreading, multi-trunk plant with distinct smooth green thorny trunks and branches; branches arch outward and droop to form a loose, widely rounded canopy

Height 20-30' (40') Spread equal or more Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferred; tolerates partial

Soil thrives in most except wet poorly drained soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 12-24); best suited for warm, low-elevations

Morphology:

Leaves pinnately compound, clustered on short branches mostly sessile; 6-12" (18") long; each leaf has 40-80 tiny bright green oval leaflets

Flowers bright yellow, turning orange in the centers; 1/2-3/4" wide in slender 3"-6" long racemes; cover almost entire canopy; summer

Fruit a pod: cylindrical, 2-6" long, constricted between seeds

Propagation: seed (scarify)

Usage: a beautiful accent tree for its loose open canopy and spectacular summer flower display; good for filtered shade, erosion control on dry slopes; usable as large barrier if left unpruned; messy

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional deep soak; is very drought resistant after established

Fertilizing none is required

Pruning head high and develop open framework; thin out

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions

Origin: N. Mexico Family: Fabaceae