

Botanical Name: Cercidium floridum

Common Name: Blue palo verde

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright, intricately branched shrub or multi-stemmed
small tree, with smooth bluish-green bark; the canopy becomes broadly rounded
with age; small branchlets are spiny

Height 15' - 25' Spread equal Growth Rate slow-moder.

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun required - likes heat; grows poorly in shade

Soil prefers loose, coarse-textured soils; tolerates most

Hardiness hardy (zones 10-14, 18-21): thrives in hot inland habitats

Morphology:

Leaves bipinnately compound, small, alternate; with 2-4 pinnae -
each pinna has 2-4 pairs of tiny, oval, blue-green leaflets; leaves drop off
during periods of drought

Flowers yellow, 1/2" across, in axillary clusters (racemes), 2"-4"
long; flowers fragrant; March - July

Fruit a pod: 2"-4" long, flattened, somewhat constricted between
the seeds

Propagation: seed (scarify for best germination)

Usage: a small accent tree prized for its profuse display of
yellow flowers and loose airy canopy (similar to Mexican palo verde but
smaller); an extremely drought-tolerant plant once established; light-filtered
shade for patios; tub plant

Landscape Care:

Watering periodic deep-soak irrigation will promote faster and
more lush growth

Fertilizing a balanced fertilizer, in spring, promotes a more dense
and rapid growth

Pruning develop an open framework of primary branches; thin out
occasionally to enhance the overall appearance

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions retains foliage for longer periods if watered
creosote bush scrub habitats, in washes of the

Origin: Colorado Desert Family: Fabaceae