

Botanical Name: Caesalpinia spinosa

Common Name: Tara

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Family Fabaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape Upright to sprawling shrubby tree covered with short, stout spines
on trunk, branches and leaves; foliage is shiny dark green with reddish fruit

Height 15 to 20 ft. Spread to 20 ft. Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferred

Soil tolerant of most soils

Hardiness Some frost -- Zones 12-16, 18-24

Morphology:

Leaves bipinnately compound, alternate on stem, to 12" long with 2-3 pairs
of pinnae up to 4" long; leaflets oval to elliptical, dark green and shiny

Flowers small yellow and red flowers in 6" to 8" long spikes toward the
ends of branches in May or June

Fruit reddish-tinged pods to 4", 3/4" wide, which curl up and drop

Propagation: seed

Usage: rustic tree used for reddish fruit and yellow flowers, sometimes
used as a street tree or roadside tree; valued as a curiosity and for its dur-
ability and hardiness

Landscape Care:

Watering regular watering for first year; drought tolerant after established

Fertilizing slow-release at planting

Pruning head up and select canopy branches carefully for tree form

Pests/Diseases none major

Other

Origin: Western South America