

Arid Zone Trees



Acacia berlandieri Guajillo



Horticultural Qualities

Acacia berlandieri

Guajillo

Foliage: Semi-evergreen

Mature Height: 9'-15'

Mature Width: 9' - 15'

Growth Rate: Moderate

Hardiness: 10 degrees F

Exposure: Full Sun

Leaf Color: Green

Shade: Filtered

Flower Color: Creamy white

Flower Shape: Ball

Flower Season: Spring

Thorns: None to Barb

Box Sizes Produced: 24"

Propagation Method: Seed



www.aridzonetrees.com

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Acacia berlandieri

Guajillo

***Acacia berlandieri* (Guajillo)** With one important exception the Texas native *Acacia berlandieri* (or Guajillo) shares many characteristics with the popular *Lysiloma thornberi* (or Fern of the Desert). Both have lush green lacy, fern like leaves and graceful curved branching patterns; both produce creamy white ball flowers in spring and are essentially thornless. The great advantage of the Guajillo is that it is cold hardy to about 10 degrees F. In typical Phoenix winters it retains most of its leaves. The common name of this tree "**Guajillo**" is a Mexican word that means foolish or funny, and was referred to by this name because it sometimes grows in funny or unusual places. The tree grows at a moderate rate in an array of well draining soil types and settings. Mature trees grow to about 9' to 15' tall and about as wide. Trees prefer full sun but will tolerate partial shade. A natural tendency toward multiple trunk growth coupled with a generally shrub-like growth habit means that young trees will require some pruning and shaping to achieve desirable form. Cream colored, mildly fragrant flowers are borne in clusters along the branches in early spring. Flowers produce broad, elongate dark brown seed pods (very similar in appearance to those found on *Lysiloma*). Pods split to release seeds and most are eventually dropped. Pod litter can be a problem in years with heavy seed crops. *Acacia berlandieri* adds a soft lush quality to the landscape and mixes well with a variety of desert trees and shrubs. Its semi-evergreen nature makes it an excellent complement to trees and shrubs that may be more deciduous in winter. Its smaller stature makes it a good accent tree or planted with taller maturing trees to create a landscape screen. *Acacia berlandieri* is an excellent alternative to *Lysiloma* in those settings where cold hardiness is an issue or where less deciduous trees are needed in desert landscapes.

Cultural Practices

Foster the development of a more dispersed root system and reduce the risk of wind throw by arranging irrigation emitters at varying distances from the trunk to encourage roots to "seek out" water and nutrients. Irrigation emitter arrangement along with other information on irrigations practices for desert trees can be found at www.aridzonetrees.com and click on the FAQ link.

Prune as needed to reinforce the structure and form of the tree. Periodic thinning is the most desirable method of pruning. Avoid hedging or heading back desert species, as this will only stimulate excessive branching. Do not remove more than 30% of the canopy during the summer as this can lead to sunburn injuries that can later be invaded by wood boring insects. Always use clean, sharp tools that are cleaned regularly in a 10% solution of bleach. For detail pruning guide see www.aridzonetrees.com and click on the FAQ interactive button.

Periodically insect pests can be a problem on some desert trees. On young trees, insect infestation can slow typical seasonal growth. Inspect trees during the growing season for common garden sucking insects such as aphids, thrip, whiteflies or psyllids. During dry months, (May and June) in dusty conditions, spider mites can appear. Monitor for infestation and apply controls as needed. Spray applications of water or water and Safer Soap give short-term control (3 to 7 days) for small insect population. For heavy infestation or longer control use federally registered insecticides. A contact insecticide application will kill existing adults. An application with a systemic soil drench will provide 8 to 12 weeks control for any post application insect hatchings or migration of insects. Before using pesticide for the first time or on new plants or cultivar, treat a few plants and check for phytotoxicity. **Always read label and follow label instruction before using pesticides. For pesticide control recommendations contact a licensed pest control advisor.**

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