

# Arid Zone Trees



## **Eysenhardtia orthocarpa** *Kidneywood*



### **Horticultural Qualities** **Eysenhardtia orthocarpa** *Kidneywood*

**Foliage:** Deciduous to Semi-Evergreen

**Mature Height:** 10' - 20'

**Mature Width:** 6' - 12'

**Growth Rate:** Moderate

**Hardiness:** 18 degrees F

**Exposure:** Full Sun

**Leaf Color:** Green

**Shade:** Filtered

**Flower Color:** White

**Flower Shape:** Terminal Spikes

**Flower Season:** Spring

**Thorns:** None

**Box Sizes Produced:** 24"

**Propagation Method:** Seed

[www.aridzonetrees.com](http://www.aridzonetrees.com)

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# **Eysenhardtia orthocarpa**

## *Kidneywood*

**Kidneywood (*E. orthocarpa*)** grows naturally in water courses, canyon slopes and hillsides where summer water is periodically available. Its natural distribution is limited by summer rainfall patterns and relatively mild winter temperatures. It is both cold temperature and drought deciduous but in mild winters or protected microclimates retains its foliage through the winter. It grows naturally as multiple slender branches with no thorns. Depending on available water, trees reach heights ranging from 10 to 20 feet tall with 6 to 12 foot spread. Trees planted in landscape setting with regular irrigation will tend to mature toward the upper end of this range. Flowers appear sporadically from April to September, typically in response to winter and summer rains. These fragrant, white flowers are arranged, at the branch terminal, in a long slender, spike-like raceme 2 to 3 inches long. Pods containing one seed each are produced from the flowers. Mature pods detach from the tree easily.

**Both *Eysenhardtia* trees** provide lush green, lacy canopies, are thornless and are ideal for patios, entry courts, as a screen planting. They can also be mixed with more deciduous materials to provide color and texture during the winter months. Fragrant flowers and leaves are an added benefit that Kidneywoods bring to 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](http://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](http://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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