

Arid Zone Trees



Tecoma garrocha *Hieron*



Horticultural Qualities **Tecoma garrocha** *Hieron*

Foliage: Semi-Evergreen
Mature Height: 10' - 20'
Mature Width: 8' - 12'
Growth Rate: Fast
Hardiness: 20 degrees F
Exposure: Full Sun
Leaf Color: Deep Green
Shade: Filtered
Flower Color: Yellow-Orange to Orange
Flower Shape: Funnel Shaped Petals
Flower Season: Spring to Fall
Thorns: None
Box Sizes Produced: 24"
Propagation Method: Cutting

www.aridzonetrees.com

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Tecoma garrocha

Hieron

Tecoma garrocha (Hieron) is the Argentine cousin of the more familiar *Tecoma stans* (Yellow Bells). Perhaps the most obvious difference from Yellow Bells is the deep yellow -orange to orange color of the flowers, borne in clusters on the terminals of new branches. Flowers appear from early spring to, in some locations, late fall. Flowering typically stops with the first freeze. The foliage is deeper green and denser than *T. stans*, with serrated-edged, lance-shaped leaflets. Depending on the severity and duration of freezing temperatures, plants may mature to heights of 10 to 20 feet tall, with plants in frost-free or protected areas growing tallest. Limited experience in the Phoenix metro area suggests that Hierons are hardy to 20 degrees F. Some frost injury to branch tips has been observed at temperatures below freezing. The roots are very cold hardy so even plants that freeze to the ground grow back rapidly in spring. Garrocha grows best in full sun and well-drained soils and can tolerate severe pruning during the winter. Winter pruning helps shape the plant and encourages the development of abundant new wood that will support additional flowers. Some have mistakenly identified this plant as a hybrid with *T. stans*. *T. garrocha* is a legitimate, recognized species that produce true to type from seed. With tightly spaced, nearly vertical stems, the plant has a columnar, upright growth habit making it an ideal screening or perimeter shrub. Individual plants can be used as specimens, color accent shrubs, or against walls and structures. Its striking summer flowers are a welcome addition to desert landscape designs.

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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