

Arid Zone Trees

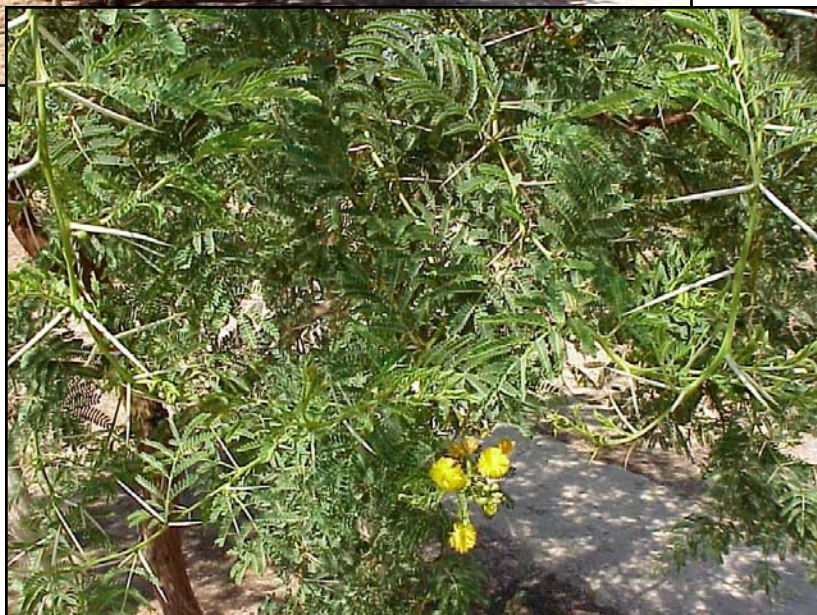


Acacia karroo *Sweet Thorn*



Horticultural Qualities Acacia karroo *Sweet Thorn*

Foliage: Evergreen
Mature Height: 10' - 15'
Mature Width: 10' - 15'
Growth Rate: Moderate to Fast
Hardiness: 18 degrees F
Exposure: Full Sun
Leaf Color: Green
Shade: Dense
Flower Color: Yellow
Flower Shape: Ball
Flower Season: Spring
Thorns: Yes
Box Sizes Produced: 24"
Propagation Method: Seed



www.aridzonetrees.com

Arid Zone Trees, P. O. Box 167, Queen Creek, AZ 85242, Phone 480-987-9094 e-mail: info@aridzonetrees.com

Acacia karroo

Sweet Thorn

Acacia karroo is a dense canopy tree with a rounded crown to 10- 15 feet tall and wide. It has been know to grow in some native regions of Africa to 45 feet tall and wide. This tree is native to a broad climatic region in Africa from arid, to grassland, in alkaline soils and close to water courses. With its distribution it is a good indicator of where travelers could find water. The tree does not like acid soil or wet cold winter areas. When in bloom the tree is lit up with bright yellow ball shaped flowers, heavy in pollen and rich in protein for birds and monkeys. The tree provides good fodder, fuel and is considered a very good bee tree important to the honey producers. The tree is heavily armed and the Namibia indigenous name wittedoom translates to 'white thorn'.

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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