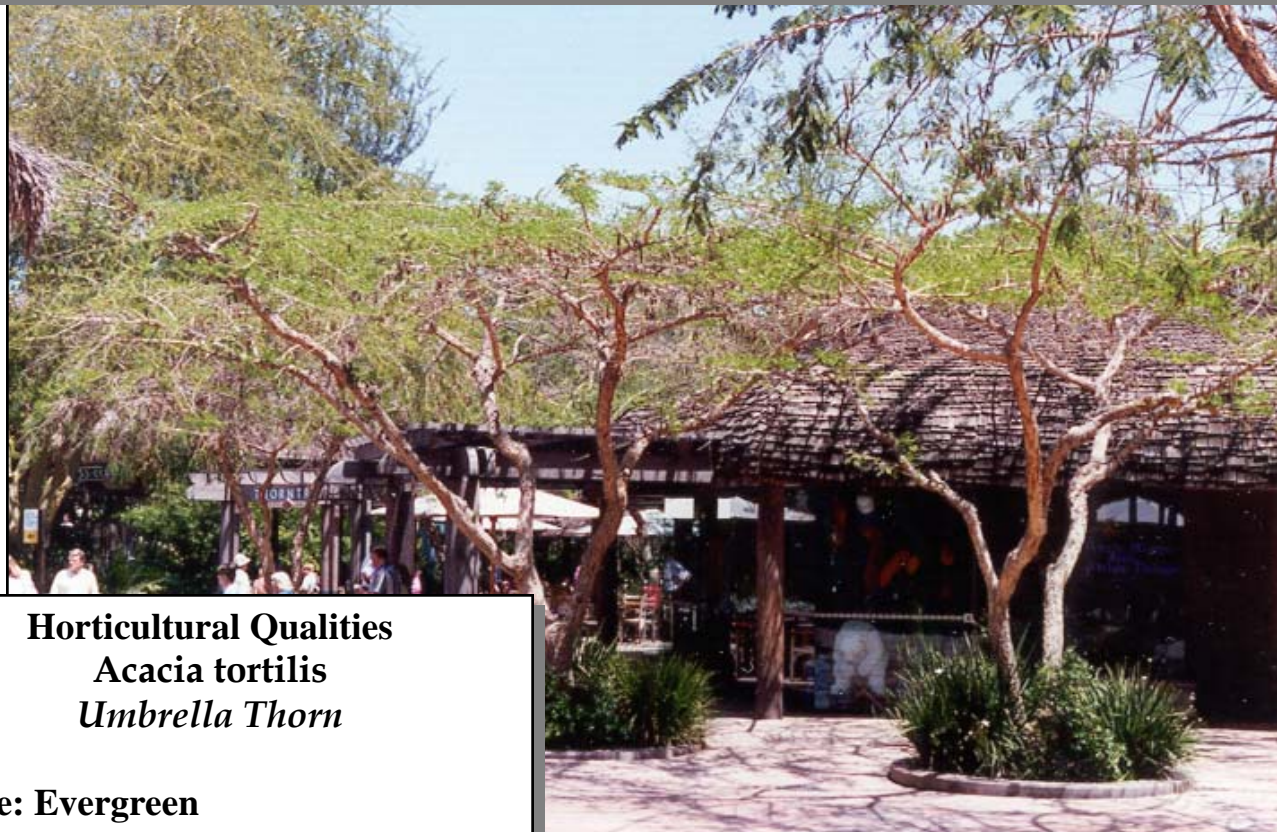


Arid Zone Trees



Acacia tortilis *Umbrella Thorn*



Horticultural Qualities *Acacia tortilis* *Umbrella Thorn*

Foliage: Evergreen
Mature Height: 15' - 60'
Mature Width: 15' - 40'
Growth Rate: Slow
Hardiness: 18 degrees F
Exposure: Full Sun
Leaf Color: Green
Shade: Dense
Flower Color: White to Cream
Flower Shape: Ball
Flower Season: Spring
Thorns: Yes
Box Sizes Produced: 24"
Propagation Method: Seed



www.aridzonetrees.com

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Acacia tortilis *Umbrella Thorn*

Acacia tortilis (Umbrella Thorn) is a slow growing evergreen medium to large tree from lower elevations in dry regions of Africa. The smaller trees have a rounded canopy while the larger trees have the flat top seen on film production from these regions. The bark is a grey to dark brown fissured with straight and hooked thorns two to three inches long at times. The two types of thorns and an interesting twisted or cork screw seed pod make this tree easy to identify. The ball shaped flower is white to cream and sometimes a pale yellow.

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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