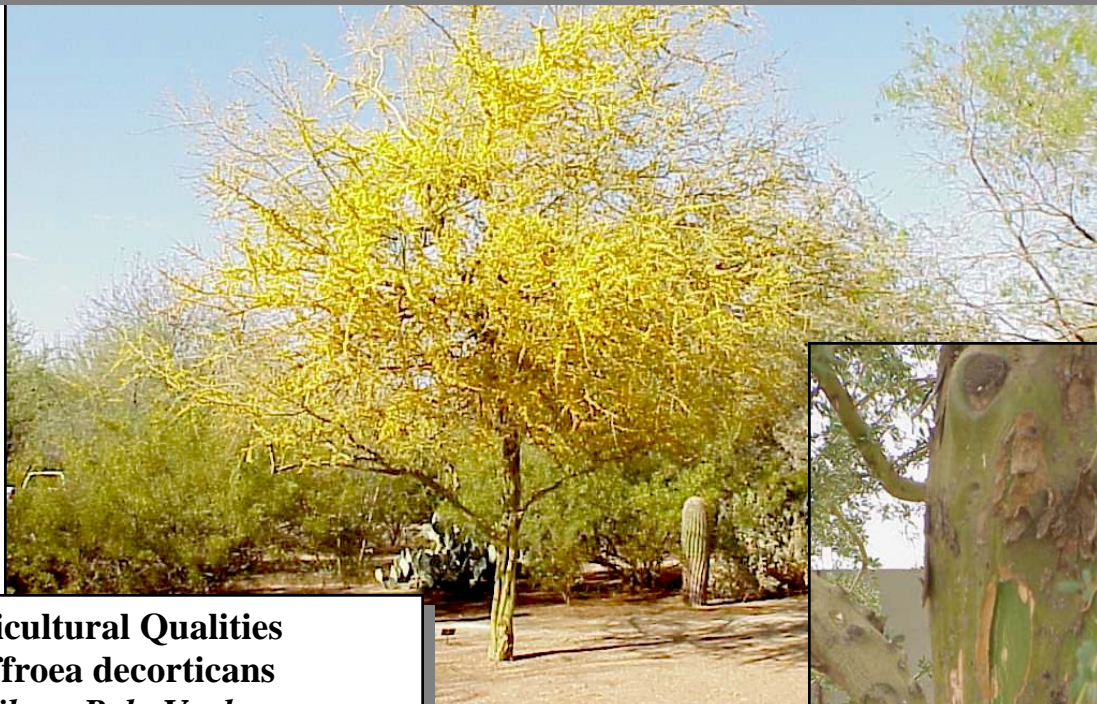


Arid Zone Trees



Geoffroea decorticans *Chilean Palo Verde*



Horticultural Qualities *Geoffroea decorticans* *Chilean Palo Verde*

Foliage: Deciduous
Mature Height: 20' - 30'
Mature Width: 20' - 30'
Growth Rate: Moderate to Fast
Hardiness: 15 degrees F
Exposure: Full Sun
Leaf Color: Green
Shade: Filtered
Flower Color: Yellow
Flower Shape: Funnel Shaped Petals
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

Geoffroea decorticans

Chilean Palo Verde

Geoffroea decorticans has two common names, **Chanar** and **Chilean Palo Verde**. **Chilean Palo Verde** possibly comes from the mottled green color of the trunks but does not seriously resemble *Cercidium*. It is found in a number of semi-arid regions of Bolivia, Brazil, Patagonia and Argentina. Chanar is found growing naturally from sea level to over 7,000 feet where it may grow as a shrub or to a tree nearly 30 feet tall. Trees tend to be quite upright with a spreading canopy with both straight and mildly curving trunks. Leaves are cold and drought deciduous. It tends to occur in areas with high water tables or near permanent sources of water.

As trees mature the trunks and branches take on a sculptural quality with long longitudinal, irregular ridges and valleys. Along with this undulating trunk, large flakes of the bark peel off or decorticate (hence the species name *decorticans*). The peeling tan to brown bark is eventually shed revealing the dark green, "immature" trunk beneath. The contrasting colors and textures created by this puzzle-piece pattern make the tree visually fascinating. Small, papery, pale yellow flowers are produced in spring, either singly or in clusters. *Geoffroea* is unique among legumes in that it produces fleshy, oval pods that hold a single seed. Fruit are initially green but turn orange brown as they mature. Seeds and fruit are valued as human and animal feed and the yellow wood is suitable for carpentry and furniture making.

Cold hardy to at least 15 degrees, the tree has grown successfully for many years at the **Boyce Thompson Arboretum** (Superior, AZ) and at the Desert Legume Program in Tucson, AZ. Leaves are small and dispersed and pale gray green in color. Twigs are rigid, gray green and end in a sharp thorn. Trees can spread by root sprouts to form thickets. In wide-open areas or on the landscape perimeter this may be a desirable quality. In more confined settings sprout growth can be eliminated by pruning and by avoiding over irrigating trees.

With its unique form and sculptural trunks Chanar produces dramatic silhouettes by day and accentuated with landscape lighting by night. It is best used as a focal point specimen tree, at entries, with signage or in groupings.

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.**

www.aridzonetrees.com

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