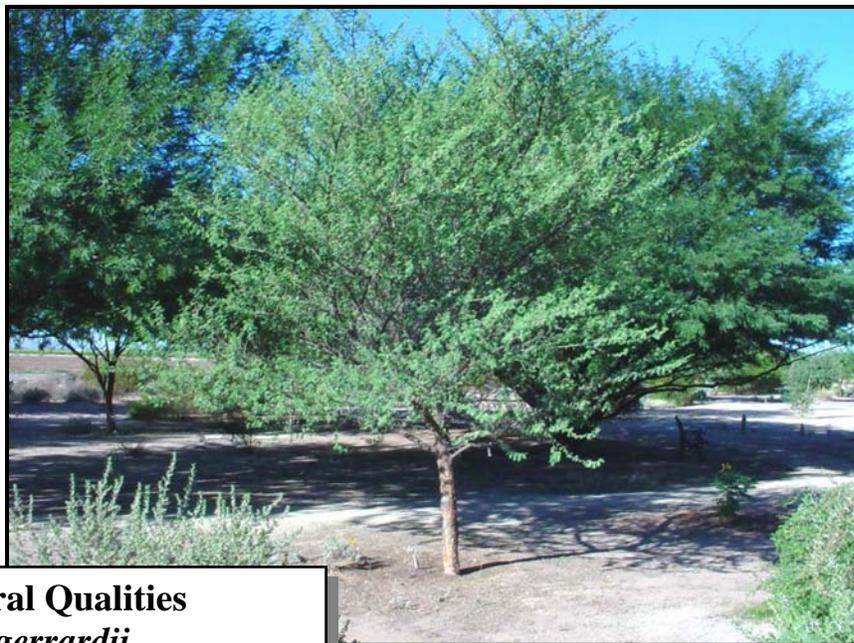


Arid Zone Trees



Acacia gerrardii Grey-haired Acacia



Horticultural Qualities *Acacia gerrardii* Grey-haired Acacia

Foliage: Deciduous
Mature Height: 30' - 35'
Mature Width: 20' - 40'
Growth Rate: Moderate
Hardiness: 18 degrees F
Exposure: Full Sun
Leaf Color: Green
Shade: Dense
Flower Color: White
Flower Shape: Ball
Flower Season: Spring
Thorns: Yes
Box Sizes Produced: 24"
Propagation Method: Seed



www.aridzonetrees.com

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Acacia gerrardii Grey-haired Acacia

Acacia gerrardii can grow to a mature height of 30' to 35' feet and as wide. In natural setting it is found in arid river valleys or shrubby uplands. Its growth rate and overall appearance is similar to that of Sweet Acacia (*Acacia smallii*). Like the Sweet Acacia, it also produces a scattered shade but has leaves that are slightly larger. White colored 1/4 to 1/2 inch diameter flowers appear in spring that develop into curved, gray, velvety seed pods. On young trees thorns are numerous, found in pairs and are bright white making them easily visible. These thorns are very superficial and as the branch matures the thorns are sloughed off as layers of papery brown to tan bark peels off. Mature trunks and branches are almost thorn free. The leaf canopy is broad and may be either flat topped or dome shaped. Grey-haired Acacia is temperature deciduous and in colder locations will lose all its leaves in winter. It is hardy to at least 20 degrees F and sustained only minor damage from temperatures as low as 15 F. Its unusual papery bark, ample shade and spring flowers make *Acacia gerrardii* an excellent tree to mix with more traditional arid landscape species in both formal and more naturalistic 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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