Acacia smallii ‘AZT’ (Acacia farnesiana), ’AZT’ Sweet Acacia

Horticultural Qualities
Acacia smallii ‘AZT’
(Acacia farnesiana)
‘AZT’ Sweet Acacia

Foliage: Semi-Deciduous
Mature Height: 15’ to 30’
Mature Width: 15’ to 30’
Growth Rate: Fast
Hardiness: 15 degrees F
Exposure: Full Sun
Leaf Color: Green
Shade: Filtered
Flower Color: Yellow
Flower Shape: Ball
Flower Season: Spring
Thorns: Yes
Box Sizes Produced: 24”, & 36”
Propagation Method: Cloning

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Acacia smallii ‘AZT™’, AZT™ Sweet Acacia is one of the first desert trees to bloom. The bloom period seems to be somewhat variable depending on the severity of winter cold temperatures. In years with mild fall weather flower buds may appear on some trees in November and December with blooms persisting into late winter and early spring. Other species may not begin blooming until mid to late spring with flowers lasting until April to late May. With Acacia smallii ‘AZT™’, flowers appear February March and continue to be produced until approximately April. Mature seed pods are dark brown, cylindrical, 2 to 2 1/2 long and 1/4 to 3/8” in diameter.

Acacia smallii ‘AZT™’, AZT™ Sweet Acacia, takes its common name from the unmistakable fragrance of its bright yellow ball flowers. It brings color, shade and a desert character to any landscape setting. Sweet Acacia like other desert natives have slender, white to gray thorns along the branches. These thorns are conspicuous, readily visible and pose little risk to pedestrians. They are frequently used in street and sidewalk plantings as well as in parking lots. Their abundant shade and moderate stature contributes to their use in courtyards, patios, seating areas and near building entries. If desired, thorns on lower branches are easily removed with hand pruners.

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 Pruning Desert Trees. 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 hatching 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.

**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 irrigation practices for desert trees can be found at Irrigation Practices for Desert Trees.