

Arid Zone Trees



Vauqelinia californica *Arizona Rosewood*



Horticultural Qualities **Vauqelinia californica** **Arizona Rosewood**

Foliage: Evergreen
Mature Height: 8' - 30'
Mature Width: 5' - 20'
Growth Rate: Moderate
Hardiness: 10-15 degrees F
Exposure: Full Sun
Leaf Color: Dark Green
Shade: Dense
Flower Color: White
Flower Shape: Dense Flat Cluster
Flower Season: Spring
Thorns: None
Propagation Method: Seed
Sizes Available: 24"

www.aridzonetrees.com

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Vauquelinia californica

Arizona Rosewood

Arizona Rosewood (*Vauquelinia californica*) is a vigorous, dense, upright, evergreen shrub that is an excellent alternative to Nerium Oleanders in all landscape designs. While it is a distant botanical relative of the Rose, it takes its common name from the heart wood of branches that can range from red to shades of brown. It is found in canyons and hillsides in Arizona, Baja and Sonora Mexico at elevations between 2500 to 5000 feet. This large shrub/small tree is reported to be hardy to 10 to 15 degrees. New growth may be a bit less cold tolerant than mature wood. As a desert native it is well adapted to high temperatures and poor soils and grows well in either partial or full sun. It can be naturalized in some desert locations to survive on rainfall or grows well with deep, monthly summer irrigations. Growth rates are slow for young plants. As roots mature and plants become more established growth rates increase. Reports of the mature height and width vary from 8 to 30 feet tall and 5 to 20 feet wide from seed cultivation. Cloning a desirable selection will produce more uniformity. The natural shrub form is the result of numerous low branching, upright stems with dense, alternating, erect leaves. Leaves are dark green, leathery, 2 to 4" long and 1/2 to 1 1/2" wide with serrated or saw-toothed leaf margins. The combination of upright branches and upward pointing leaves give Rosewood its strong columnar growth habit. Flat-topped clusters of snowy white to cream colored flowers (about 3/8" in diameter each) are found from spring to summer. Flowers mature during the summer into dark brown to rust colored hard fruit. Some fruit remains attached through the winter months. It can be used as a tall informal hedge that serves as an effective privacy screen or noise barrier. It requires no pruning but can, over several years, be pruned into a small tree form. It is used as a perimeter planting, hedge, large accent shrub or in many landscape applications where Oleanders are currently used. Its advantages over Oleander include slower growth, ease of maintenance, limited leaf and flower litter, flowers and plant parts are not toxic to people or pets and it can be naturalized in most landscape settings.

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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