Arid Zone Times

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Thornless Hybrid 'AZT'

Cercidium thornless hybrid 'AZT'

Horticultural Qualities
Cercidium thornless hybrid 'AZT'
(Parkinsonia thornless hybrid 'AZT')
Thornless Hybrid 'AZT'

Foliage: Semi-Deciduous
Mature Height: 20' - 30'
Mature Width: 20' - 40'
Growth Rate: Fast
Hardiness: Below 15 degrees F
Exposure: Full Sun
Leaf Color: Green
Shade: Filtered
Flower Color: Yellow
Flower Shape: Funnel Shaped Petals
Flower Season: Spring
Thorns: None
Box Sizes Produced: 24" 36"and 48"
Propagation Method: Cloning

When Arid Zone Trees introduced Cercidium thornless hybrid 'AZT' back in 1995 the only other documented thornless Palo Verde being offered for sale was the 'Desert Museum.' Since then numerous thornless Palo Verdes have been introduced, some with greater success than others. This hybrid provides landscape architects and designers a tree that brings the branching and structural beauty of a **Sonoran Palo Verde, Cercidium (Parkinsonia) praecox** combined with the always desirable thornless growth. Time tested in landscapes throughout the desert southwest, Cercidium thornless hybrid 'AZT' has consistently proven to be well adapted to an assortment of landscape applications. The canopy is lush green, providing ample shade and intricate branching patterns. With distinctive rich green trunks and the versatility to be grown as either V-shaped upright or candelabra form specimens, it brings a distinctive desert grace, exceptional sculptural quality and a one of a kind texture to the landscape. The brilliant yellow flowers that are abundant in spring, and intermittent during the summer months, make it a visual compliment to both desert and traditional landscape designs. It can be used as an accent tree, along street and parking medians, as a focal point, solitary

Arid Zone Trees
Dedicated to providing quality trees to the landscape industry, that are appropriate to the desert Southwest.

specimen or any application that requires a striking, graceful, thornless desert tree. They can also be up-lit at night to create dramatic silhouettes.

The 'Desert Museum' Palo Verde set a new standard for desert adapted trees being propagated for the landscape trade. Mark Dimmitt demonstrated that the broad genetic diversity of nearly all desert tree species could be exploited. That selections could be identified (either individual specimens or groups), from within and between species, that possess qualities uniquely desirable for use in landscapes was widely underappreciated. Dimmitt understood that appearances (phenotypes) could be deceiving, so he spent several years evaluating a number of selections before settling on the one that became the 'Desert Museum.'

AZT followed a similar process when it began scanning selections looking for a thornless Palo Verde. Seeing a need for additional forms and structures, AZT's first priority was to look for thornless Palo Verdes that captured the sculpture and elegance of the Sonoran Palo Verde (Cercidium praecox). The second criteria was to identify a clone that could be grown as a rooted cutting and not require a rootstock and grafting. Cercidium thornless hybrid 'AZT' exhibits qualities found in Mexican, Blue and Sonoran Palo Verde. The result is a tree with a gorgeous green trunk, beautiful branching patters, a lush leaf canopy and brilliant yellow flowers with a tiny orange highlight on the petals. To say the look is unique is to understate the appearance. As specimens mature, their Sonoran Palo Verde ancestry becomes more evident and the visual contribution to the landscape is unmistakable.

Cercidium thornless hybrid 'AZT' is propagated and grown using the "AZT Root Management Program." This program is intended to utilize an assortment of measures, techniques and inspections that are, collectively, designed to optimize root development throughout the growing process. While this program cannot completely prevent wind throw, it maximizes root mass during propagation and production and gives trees a positive start in developing a robust and dispersed root system. Throughout the production process, pruning and shaping focuses on enhancing and complimenting the natural structure and branching patterns of this hybrid.

Thornless Palo Verdes have become a staple in desert landscape designs; they have even found their way into more traditional landscapes. Cercidium thornless hybrid 'AZT' offers landscape architects and designers an alternative form to bring added texture, color and form to the landscape.

Cercidium thornless hybrid 'AZT' Flower

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