

Arid Zone Trees



Acacia aneura, Mulga



Horticultural Qualities

Acacia aneura Mulga

Foliage: Evergreen
Mature Height: 14' to 18'
Mature Width: 14' to 18'
Growth Rate: Moderate to Fast
Hardiness: 15 degrees F
Exposure: Full Sun
Leaf Color: Silver-Gray
Shade: Filtered
Flower Color: Yellow
Flower Shape: Spike or Rod
Flower Season: Winter
Thorns: None
Box Sizes Produced: 24" & 36"
Propagation Method: Seed



www.aridzonetrees.com

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***Acacia aneura*, Mulga**

Acacia aneura (Mulga) In a landscape palette with a limited number of evergreen trees, *Acacia aneura* is a welcome addition to desert landscapes. *Acacia aneura* is native to all mainland states of Australia, where it grows in low rainfall areas and in most soils, including clay. The common name, "Mulga" is an Australian Aboriginal word that means dream seed, both the tree and its seed are part of their mythology. The tree has a moderate growth rate with a mature height of 14' to 18'. It grows well in a variety of settings but prefers full sun and well draining soils. The densely arranged needle-like, silver-gray phyllodes (leaves) give the canopy an airy, lacy quality that contrasts with the dark reddish brown branches. The canopy can extend to the ground. Typically bottom branches are trimmed to expose the trunk(s) and give the tree an umbrella form.

Acacia aneura is unusual in that it has an open flowering cycle. The trees produce small, sulphur yellow, rod shaped flower about 3/4" long. Tan pods (1" to 1 1/2") mature from these flowers and are ultimately dropped. Once this flowering cycle is complete another one begins. Trees may produce 3 to 4 flower cycles per year with the heaviest flowering usually occurring in the winter or following warm season rains. The bright yellow flowers in combination with the silver-gray leaves make *Acacia aneura* a striking accent tree in the landscape. It is also used as a hedge or screen planting and can be used in small groupings. Encouraging a more shrub-like growth habit, by reducing or eliminating pruning, is more desirable in hedge and shrub applications. Because trees are damaged by water saturated soils it is not recommended for planting in turf areas or with an under-story of high water demanding plants.

Reports indicate the *Acacia aneura* is hardy to about 15 degrees F. Our experience in Phoenix is that the trees survive normal winters. This Australian native has clearly found a home in the desert southwest

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.

Acacia aneura is relatively free of serious insects pests.

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