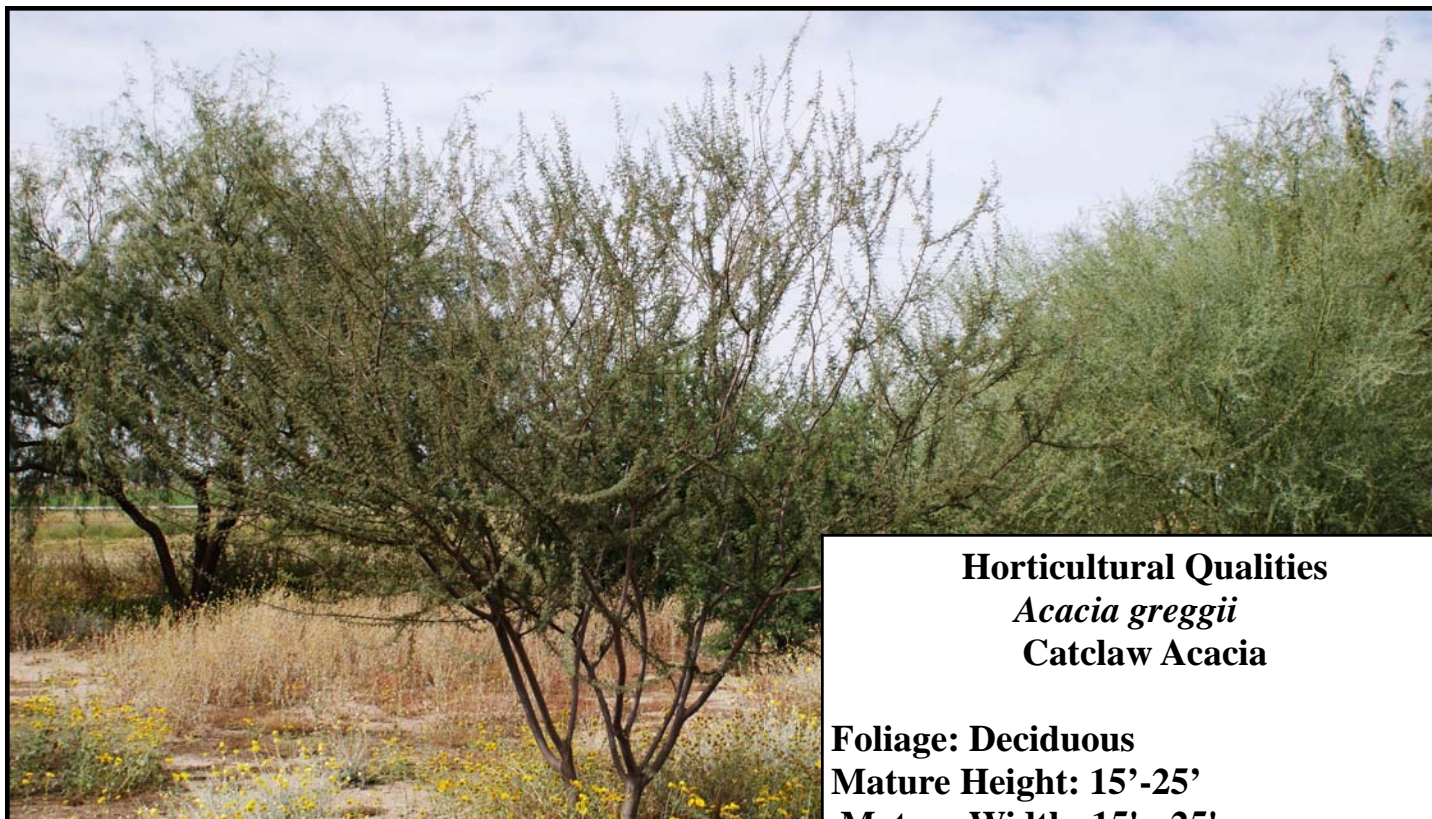


# Arid Zone Trees



## *Acacia greggii* Catclaw Acacia



### Horticultural Qualities

#### *Acacia greggii* Catclaw Acacia

**Foliage:** Deciduous  
**Mature Height:** 15'-25'  
**Mature Width:** 15' - 25'  
**Growth Rate:** Moderate  
**Hardiness:** 0 degrees F  
**Exposure:** Full Sun  
**Leaf Color:** Green  
**Shade:** Filtered  
**Flower Color:** Yellow  
**Flower Shape:** Rod Shape  
**Flower Season:** Spring  
**Thorns:** Yes  
**Box Sizes Produced:** 24"  
**Propagation Method:** Seed

[www.aridzonetrees.com](http://www.aridzonetrees.com)

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## *Acacia greggii* Catclaw Acacia

**Catclaw Acacia (also called Devil's Claw Acacia) *Acacia greggii***, takes its name from the curved thorns that are found along the smaller branches. This semi-deciduous native of the American southwest and northern Mexico grows at a moderate rate to a height and width of 15 to 25'. It thrives in full sun and tolerates temperatures of 0° F. Catclaw can be found growing on canyon slopes, along arroyos and desert flats to elevations below 5000 feet. This species has been present in the Sonoran Desert for over 12,000 years and individual specimens can live for 130 years. They are among the most drought tolerant trees in the Sonoran desert. Established trees can survive without supplemental irrigation but do best with monthly deep soaking during the hottest months (May through September). Two-inch long flower spikes of mildly fragrant, cream to pale yellow flowers are produced from spring to fall.

Left unpruned, branches form a dense, thorny, spherical canopy that makes this an excellent security planting. Careful pruning reveals the graceful, twisted and gnarled trunks. Nursery grown specimens are trained into multiple trunked and single trunked tree forms. Gray-green leaves are made of finely divided leaflets that produce a dispersed canopy and filtered shade. Trees are fully deciduous in severe droughts. Its rustic trunks, natural form, summer flowers and hardiness make Catclaw Acacia an ideal accent or perimeter planting tree in high and low desert landscapes. These trees attract birds and other wildlife in landscapes that border native desert.

### 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 [www.aridzonetrees.com](http://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](http://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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