

# Arid Zone Trees



## Caesalpinia mexicana *Mexican Bird of Paradise*



### Horticultural Qualities Caesalpinia mexicana *Mexican Bird of Paradise*

**Foliage:** Semi-Evergreen  
**Mature Height:** 10' - 15'  
**Mature Width:** 6' - 12'  
**Growth Rate:** Fast  
**Hardiness:** 20 degrees F  
**Exposure:** Full Sun  
**Leaf Color:** Green  
**Shade:** Filtered  
**Flower Color:** Yellow  
**Flower Shape:** Petals  
**Flower Season:** Spring to Fall  
**Thorns:** None  
**Box Sizes Produced:** 24"  
**Propagation Method:** Seed & Cuttings

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

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## Caesalpinia mexicana

### *Mexican Bird of Paradise*

*Caesalpinia mexicana* (*Mexican Bird of Paradise*) can grow to become large evergreen to semi deciduous shrubs or small trees that are 10' to 15' tall and 6' to 12' wide. Flowers clusters are bright yellow, fragrant and appear at branch terminals from spring to fall. This specie is native to northern Mexico, growing in washes and slopes in arid regions. In the shrub form, they can be used as a screen, background shrubs and patio or court yard plantings for the tree forms. Mexican Bird of Paradise is fast growing, adapted to desert or tropical landscapes and is hardy to 20 degrees.

### 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](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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