

Arid Zone Trees



Prosopis thornless hybrid 'AZT™' 'AZT™' Thornless Hybrid Mesquite



Horticultural Qualities

Prosopis thornless hybrid 'AZT™'
'AZT™' Thornless Hybrid Mesquite

Foliage: Deciduous

Mature Height: 20' - 40'

Mature Width: 20' - 40'

Growth Rate: Fast

Hardiness: 15 degrees F

Exposure: Full Sun

Leaf Color: Dark Green

Shade: Dense

Flower Color: Cream

Flower Shape: Fuzzy Spike

Flower Season: Late Spring

Thorns: None

Box Sizes Produced: 24", 36",
and 48"

Propagation Method: Cloning



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Prosopis thornless hybrid ‘AZT™’, ‘AZT™’ Thornless Hybrid Mesquite. These trees exhibit a uniform appearance, upright growth and strong branch angles. Leaflets give the canopy a lush green look. The characteristics that set these ‘AZT™’ clones apart from seed selections are the thornless, uniform upright growth, synchronous bud break and, with sound horticultural practices, root mass growth that is in proportion to canopy growth.

Arid Zone Trees makes selections from thousands of trees propagated from seed. Only individual trees having the most desirable physical qualities (branching habits, leaf color, leaf canopy, and flower color) and sound horticultural characteristics (rooting, cold hardiness and growth rate) are selected for further study. These trees are then cloned (vegetatively propagated) and planted at our nursery for evaluation. The best of these trees are placed in our cloning production and are designated **Variety ‘AZT™’**. Since no single selection of any desert tree species is best adapted to all landscape applications, we continually search for new additions to our **Variety ‘AZT™’**.

While its horticultural characteristics and taxonomy remains the subject of sometimes heated discussion, **Prosopis thornless hybrid ‘AZT™’** are among the most popular and widely used trees in the desert landscape palette. It is not difficult to understand its popularity among landscape professionals given the trees’ qualities. Trees are thornless, making them ideal for landscape applications from re-vegetation of disturbed desert sites to streetscapes, park plantings and commercial and residential landscapes. The form and texture of **Prosopis thornless hybrid ‘AZT™’** blend almost seamlessly with surrounding native Sonoran desert trees and shrubs. They are used as theme trees along streets and commercial projects, as screens, wind breaks or barrier plantings, as transition trees back to native species in re-vegetation projects or any landscape applications where ample shade is desired. At maturity, Mesquites can be up to 30 feet tall and as wide with symmetrical, dome-shaped, spreading canopies. The foliage is lacy and fern-like with compound leaves consisting of anywhere from 20 to 40 leaflets. Cold hardy to 10 to 15 degrees F, they can be planted throughout most regions of the desert southwest.

Trees are semi-deciduous losing only a portion of the leaves in warmer winter locations. Leaves remaining through the winter are shed rapidly in spring just prior to bud break. In late spring Mesquites produce yellow-green, unremarkable, catkin-like flowers. By early summer curved and sometimes curled tan to brown seed pods mature and are shed.

The shade produced by **Prosopis thornless hybrid ‘AZT™’** can range from filtered to quite dense. Shade is a welcome addition to all desert landscapes but may inhibit the growth and flower production of under-story plantings. Carefully consider the ultimate shade that can be produced by these trees and the impact of shade on the growth and flowering of under-story plants and turf.

Prosopis thornless hybrid ‘AZT™’ will tolerate an array of soil types and growing conditions from harsh, full sun to shady bosque or grove-like plantings. The first 2 to 3 years following transplanting are critical in establishing a well distributed root system. With supplemental irrigation and fertilization, **Prosopis thornless hybrid ‘AZT™’** grow at a rapid rate. Mature, established Mesquite trees can be naturalized to survive on annual rainfall in desert soils with higher water holding capacity. Trees are most lush and exhibit best growth and appearance with irrigation during the hot, dry summer months. In landscape settings where water and nitrogen are usually abundant, Mesquites can produce large dense leaf canopies from limited root systems. These trees are often easily damaged or completely uprooted by the high winds associated with the summer rainy season.

Cultural Practices

Wind damage and uprooting are the products of poor pruning and staking practices and improper irrigation and should not be considered as inherent, unavoidable horticultural shortcomings of Thornless Hybrids. 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. Pruning to remove about 20% of the canopy every 3 to 4 weeks during the growing season helps promote root development that is proportional to the shoot growth of young trees. Removing more than 20% of the canopy can inhibit rooting and encourage undesired re-growth made up of dense flushes of branches and leaves. Selective pruning should be used to promote the development of a symmetrical canopy with well spaced branches. Use tree stakes only when absolutely necessary and then only briefly. Select low-breaking, upright trees as they occupies no more space than a single-trunk specimen yet retain the natural wind resistance of trees found growing native in desert settings. (For more details and illustrations see: "Tree Planting Practices: An Overview" [Arid Zone Times](#), Volume 9, number 1).

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