

Velvet Mesquite (Common Name)

Prosopis velutina (Scientific Name)



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Canopy potential: 30' wide

Annual Growth Rate: 24"

Powerline Friendly: 30' from base

Root Damage Potential: Low

Leaves: Deciduous, with long stems, made up of 12-20 leaflets about 2" long and 1/4" wide, smooth, dark green, and linear.

Flowers: Flower stem is 3" long or more, containing numerous cream-colored flowers.



ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Water Use: Low

Edible Fruit Producing: Yes, 2" fruit that develops from its flowers that resembles the spiraling shape of a screw.

Allergenic: Moderate

BVOC Emissions: Moderate

Sonoran Desert Native: Yes

Invasive Species: Yes



Tree Care: Tolerant of most soil types, preferring those that are well-drained. Staking in the first year may be needed until established. Fertilizer is not needed to promote growth. Prune to thin and shape the canopy as needed. In the first year, water once every week to week and a half. Once established, little to no water is needed.

Ecosystem Services: The beans are edible and have served as an important starch in the diets of indigenous people. Tohono O'ohdam still make mesquite flour, and today this practice is becoming commercially viable. Attracts bees and produces honey. The flowers are sweet and edible, and the tree sap can be made into a cold and flu remedy or candy. Charcoal can be made from wood to add flavor to foods on the grill. The roots, bark, and leaves also have medicinal properties and have been used for treatment of acne, dandruff and conjunctivitis. Wood is used for building, basketry, and as a fabric.

