

PALO VERDE

Common Name: Palo Verde

Scientific Name: *Cercidium floridum*

Noted Varieties: *Parkinsonia aculeata* (foothill, yellow, or littleleaf)
Parkinsonia florida (blue)

Mexican, Blue, Foothill, Sonoran, Desert Museum

Size: 20' ht – Foothill

40' - Blue

Frost: Cold Hardy to 10', but will not tolerate hard freezes

Growth Rate: Mod/Fast

Flowers: Short flowering season with yellow/white blossoms (March – May) that attract numerous pollinators. Pods contain 1-8 seeds. Seeds are edible.

Comments: *Palo Verde* – Spanish for green wood/stick – alludes to the tree's greenish branches & trunk. Deciduous; needs full sun; needs good drainage; drought tolerant. Blue requires more water; grows faster, but dies sooner. Foothills thrive in coarser soil; can live for 100+ years. Desert Museum species developed in 1980's - thornless, blooms throughout the summer. Casts light shade, so many sun loving plants, including cacti, can grow beneath them; seeds are edible; fairly pest resistant, except termites and palo verde rootborers – don't grow these near a wood home.