



ARIZONA-SONORA  
DESERT  
MUSEUM

## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### White Bark Acacia or Palo Blanco

*Mariosousa (Acacia) willardiana*

**DESCRIPTION:** White Bark Acacia, endemic to the thornscrub of Sonora, grows to approximately 30 feet tall (usually less) with a fairly small canopy. In cultivation it grows at a moderate rate, taking 15 to 20 years to reach 15' tall. It can be very upright or open and broad. As its name suggests, White Bark Acacia has bright white bark that peels off in papery sheets. The ivory flowers are very mimosa-like, and occur in March and April. They are a nectar source for butterflies such as the Great Purple Hairstreak.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Great as a silhouetted tree or as a patio accent. It can offer a very light shade for understory plants not completely adapted to full sun. Goes well in a xeriscape or an enhanced desert landscape.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** 15°F, but protect trunk with a water heater blanket or other protective wrap at 20°F for a mature tree and 26°F for a smaller, immature tree.



**Sun tolerance:** Full sun is needed.



**Watering and feeding:** Once per week deep irrigation recommended.



**Soil requirements:** Deep well drained soil.



**Pruning:** May need training as a young tree to remove any unruly, gangly limbs. May need loose staking up for the first year or two.