



**ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM**  
PLANT CARE INFORMATION

**Blue Palo Verde**  
*Parkinsonia florida*

**DESCRIPTION:** Blue Palo Verde is a common tree found in washes around the Sonoran Desert region. It grows fairly quickly, and will eventually reach 25' tall or more, with a spread of 30-40'. The small leaves provide a shade that is light enough to grow other plants beneath. During the month of April it is covered with bright yellow flowers for 3-5 weeks. Bees are the primary pollinator, but many animals, from insects to birds, utilize the plant.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** It is adapted to desert landscape, but fits in to more intense gardens, but be sure to allow for its ultimate size.

(over)



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**CULTURE:**



**Hardiness:** Blue Palo Verde is hardy to at least 22° F for quick freezes, but may suffer stem damage in extended cold periods.



**Sun tolerance:** Plant in full sun.



**Watering and feeding:** Water use is moderate when young, and will suffer slow growth when underwatered when in leaf. Mature plants often do well without direct irrigation if planted near other irrigated plants or lawn.



**Soil requirements:** In almost any soil.



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**Pruning:** In nature, new branches grow from the center and older ones layer down to the ground. Pruning can be necessary to keep it off the ground. Too much though, can weaken the supporting aspect of the branching and breakage in high winds.

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