

# Desert Ironwood (Common Name)

*Olneya tesota* (Scientific Name)



## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Canopy potential: 15' – 30' wide

Annual Growth Rate: 12"

Powerline Friendly: 15' – 30' from base

Root Damage Potential: Low

Leaves: 1-3" long, usually 2-10 leaflets.

Flowers: ½" long, purple to magenta pea flower. On hairy stalks, in small clusters. Blooms in Spring-Summer.



## ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Water Use: Low

Edible Fruit Producing: Yes

Allergenic: Low

BVOC Emissions: High

Sonoran Desert Native: Yes

Invasive Species: No

Tree Care: Drought-resistant, well-draining soil, planted in full sun. Some protection from frost is needed. Do not over water or plant with other irrigated plants. Very little litter, relatively easy to grow/maintain.

Ecosystem Services: Native cultures in both Arizona and Sonora made use of the wood for building and carving of bowls, etc. Desert Ironwood flowers can be eaten raw in salads or candied for use in desserts. Animals gather in the shade to utilize the tree's canopy as shelter from the sun.

