

Shade Tree Types

This document provides more extensive information about the 6 trees offered at our SRP Shade Tree Events, helping you choose the best tree for your home. Your tree(s) will come in a 5 gallon bucket and will be about 3 to 6 feet tall. Check out our "Tree Resources" document for more detailed information about planting, care and maintenance, and protecting your trees from weather, critters and more!



Native Mesquite (Velvet Mesquite) *Prosopis velutina*

Thornless Hybrid Mesquite (Chilean Mesquite) *Prosopis chilensis*

Blue Palo Verde *Parkinsonia florida*

Thornless Palo Verde (Desert Museum) *Cercidium X sp. 'Desert Museum'*

Willow Acacia *Acacia Salicina*

Desert Willow *Chilopsis linearis*

Native Mesquite

Shade Tree Types:



CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The Native Mesquite sapling you will receive comes in a 5-gallon base and tends to be 3-6 feet tall. Plant your sapling in an area that receives full sun.

Watering

During the first year, make sure to water the tree deeply, to 2-3 feet deep and away from the trunk to

encourage the growth of a strong root system. The Native Mesquite has a natural deep root system that can grow over 100

feet laterally in order to find water, and the first 2-3 years are the most important in establishing this root system. During the spring and fall/winter, water it once every 14 days or less if there is rainfall, but during the hottest summer months increase the watering to once every week.

Pruning

After the first year of growth, periodic thinning is the best way to prune your tree. Remove no more than 20% of the canopy during the growing season in order to encourage root development that is proportional to

the shoot growth of young trees. In areas with heavy monsoons, it is important to prune before the beginning of the storm season. Additional pruning, 3 to 4 weeks later, will **reduce** the risk of wind-throw and branch damage. Pruning more than 20% of the canopy can **impede** rooting and encourage undesired re-growth of dense, top-heavy clusters of branches and leaves.



QUICK FACTS:

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Canopy potential: 30' wide

Annual Growth Rate: 24"

Powerline Friendly: 30' from base

Root Damage Potential: Low

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Water Use: Low

Edible Fruit Producing: Yes

Allergenic: Moderate

BVOC Emissions: Moderate

Sonoran Desert Native: Yes

Thornless Hybrid Mesquite

Shade Tree Types:



CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The THM sapling you will receive comes in a 5-gallon base and tends to be 3-6 feet tall. Plant your sapling in an area that receives full sun.

Watering

During the first year, make sure to water the tree deeply, to 2-3 feet deep and away from the trunk to encourage the growth of strong roots. The THM has a natural deep root system that can grow over 100 feet laterally in order to find water, and the first 2-3 years are the most important in establishing this root system. During the spring and fall/winter, water it once every 14 days or less if there is rainfall, but during the hottest summer months increase the watering to once every week.



Pruning

After the first year of growth, prune the tree to remove about 20% of the canopy during the growing season in order to encourage root

development that is proportional to the shoot growth of young trees. In areas with heavy monsoons, it is important to prune before the beginning of the storm season. Additional pruning, 3 to 4 weeks later, will lessen the risk of wind-throw and branch damage. Pruning more than 20% of the canopy can inhibit rooting and encourage undesired re-growth of dense, top-heavy clusters of branches and leaves.



QUICK FACTS:

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Canopy potential: 30' wide

Annual Growth Rate: 30"

Powerline Friendly: 30' from base

Root Damage Potential: Low

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Water Use: Low

Edible Fruit Producing: No

Allergenic: Moderate

BVOC Emissions: Moderate

Sonoran Desert Native: No

Blue Palo Verde

Shade Tree Types:



CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The Blue Palo Verde sapling you will receive comes in a 5-gallon base and tends to be 3-6 feet tall. Plant your sapling in an area that receives full sun and

Watering

During the first year, make sure to water the tree

deeply, at least to 3 feet. Water away from the trunk to encourage the growth of roots that have to search for water.

During the spring and fall/winter, water it once every 14 days but during the summer increase the watering to once every week.



Pruning

After the first year of growth, prune the tree to reinforce the shape you want since BPVs can initially grow as large scrubs. As with the Thornless

Palo Verde, do not remove more than 30% of the tree's canopy during the summer as this can cause "sunburn" injuries on the tree which can later be infested with wood boring insects. Any insect infestation can inhibit the fast seasonal growth of young trees so inspect your tree and if you see any insects such as aphids, thrip, whiteflies, or psyllids, apply a non-harsh control measure.



QUICK FACTS:

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Canopy potential: 15' – 20' wide

Annual Growth Rate: 36"

Powerline Friendly: 25' from base

Root Damage Potential: Low

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Water Use: Low

Edible Fruit Producing: Yes

Allergenic: High

BVOC Emissions: Moderate

Sonoran Desert Native: Yes

Thornless Palo Verde

Shade Tree Types:



CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The TPV sapling you will receive comes in a 5-gallon base and tends to be 3-6 feet tall. **Please note that young TPVs may have thorns that fall off as the tree grows.** Plant your sapling in a spot that will receive full sun.



QUICK FACTS:

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Canopy potential: 25' wide

Annual Growth Rate: 30"

Powerline Friendly: 25' from base

Root Damage Potential: Low

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Water Use: Low

Edible Fruit Producing: Yes
Allergenic: High

BVOC Emissions: Moderate

Sonoran Desert Native: Yes

Watering

During the first year, make sure to water the tree deeply, at least to 3 feet, and away from the trunk to encourage the growth of roots that have to search for water. During the spring and fall/winter, water it once every 14 days but during the summer increase the watering to once every week.

Pruning

After the first year, perform periodic trimming as needed but do not remove more than 30% of the tree's canopy during the summer as this can cause "sunburn" injuries on the tree which can later be infested with wood-boring insects. Any insect infestation can inhibit the fast



seasonal growth of young trees so inspect your tree and if you see any insects such as aphids, thrip, whiteflies, or psyllids, apply a non-harsh control measure.



Willow Acacia

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The Willow Acacia sapling you will receive comes in a 5-gallon base and tends to be 3-6 ft tall (pictured below). Plant your sapling in a spot that will receive the full sun.

Watering

During the first year, make sure to water deeply (at least 3 ft) and away from the trunk to avoid blow over during windstorms. Deep, infrequent watering helps to develop a strong, anchoring root system. Once the tree has become well-rooted, water it sparingly--every three to four weeks in the summer and every other month in the winter.



Pruning

Because Willow Acacias grow quickly and can develop thick canopies, thinning the canopy helps to reduce wind resistance, especially during our monsoon season. After the first year, prune your Willow Acacia in fall or early spring to raise and thin the canopy and to remove dead or damaged limbs. Also, although we typically discourage staking because we prefer trees to develop a strong root system on their own, sometimes Willow Acacias will benefit from staking when young, as they can grow quickly and top-heavy.



QUICK FACTS:

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Canopy potential: 25' – 40' wide

Annual Growth Rate: 36"

Powerline Friendly: 20' – 40' from base

Root Damage Potential: Low

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Water Use: Low

Edible Fruit Producing: No

Allergenic: Moderate

BVOC Emissions: Moderate

Sonoran Desert Native: No



Desert Willow

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The Desert Willow sapling you will receive comes in a 5-gallon base and tends to be 3-6 feet tall. Plant your sapling in a spot that will receive full sun or partial shade.

Watering

During the first year, make sure to water the tree deeply--down to at least 3 feet. During spring and fall/winter, water it once approximately every 14 days but during the summer increase the watering to once every week.



Pruning

After the first year, prune the tree in spring just as leaves begin to grow to remove any winter damage and to shape it.



QUICK FACTS:

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Canopy potential: 10' – 20' wide

Annual Growth Rate: 24" – 36"

Powerline Friendly: 15' – 30' from base

Root Damage Potential: Low

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Water Use: Low

Edible Fruit Producing: No

Allergenic: Low

BVOC Emissions: Moderate

Sonoran Desert Native: Yes