



ARIZONA-SONORA  
DESERT  
MUSEUM

## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Whitethorn Acacia or Huizache *Vachellia (Acacia) constricta*

**DESCRIPTION:** Whitethorn Acacia is a common woody shrub or small tree in the Sonoran desert typically growing to 6 feet tall, but occasionally over 12 feet in height. Its growth rate is moderate to fast, and a large shrub can be obtained in a few years. Its stems range from a light gray to a mahogany color, with pairs of straight white spines anywhere from 0.5 to 2 cm long. Unless older plants are being grazed (or pruned), they often will not have thorns. The small leaves are drought and cold deciduous. The flowers occur in small yellow balls about ½ inch in diameter. It blooms in spring, and again in summer. In the Sonoran Desert, it is usually found in arroyos and washes, where it blooms in late spring, with a second round of blooms following the monsoon. The bloom depends on having a minimum amount of rain, followed by a period of warmth.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Whitethorn Acacia sees some use in desert gardens; it can be trained into barriers or as a tree. Both species can be a good addition to an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape, They can be used as light shade for small cacti, and cover for birds.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** 0°F.



**Sun tolerance:** Best form and flowering in full sun.



**Watering and feeding:** Very drought tolerant once established. No fertilization necessary.



**Soil requirements:** Any soil.



**Pruning:** As needed to shape and control.