



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Crucifixion Thorn or Corona de Cristo *Canotia holacantha*

DESCRIPTION: Crucifixion Thorn is a scrubby-looking shrub or small tree that resembles Foothill Paloverde (*Parkinsonia*). It can grow 6 to 20' tall. Leaves are tiny and soon deciduous, but like palo verdes, it photosynthesizes through its green bark. Small yellow flowers occur in spring and summer, followed by 1" woody capsules. The flowers are an irresistible lure to many species of native bees and wasps. Crucifixion Thorn is native to the Sonoran Desert, semidesert grassland, juniper, and chaparral communities, from 2000 to 5200 feet elevation.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as a barrier or a background plant, or in an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape. Great for attracting wildlife.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: 10°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to very light shade



Watering and feeding: Deep but infrequent irrigation once established. Fertilization not necessary.



Soil requirements: Prefers calcareous soils, but most soils will do.



Pruning: Any time as needed to control size.