



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Mexican Bird-of-Paradise or Viche *Poincianella (Caesalpinia) mexicana*

DESCRIPTION: Mexican Bird-of-Paradise is a large shrub to small tree, native to Texas and Mexico. In cultivation it can be a multi-trunked tree or large shrub, growing to 10 or 20 feet tall with a similar spread at a moderately rapid rate. In colder areas it is an herbaceous perennial, often growing to only 3 to 6 feet. The foliage is fine textured and bright green and may be evergreen during milder years. Fragrant lemon yellow flowers appear on small spikes from spring to fall. In the low desert, evergreen and can bloom year round. Mexican Bird-of-Paradise will tolerate a great deal of heat and drought once established. Hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to its nectar.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as a small patio tree, background shrub or to attract birds and butterflies. It can also fit into an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: to mid-teens, damaged below that but recovers quickly.



Sun tolerance: Grows more upright and flowers better in sun.



Watering and feeding: Low water use once established. Feeding not necessary.



Soil requirements: Does better with well-drained soil.



Pruning: As needed.

Note: Pods and seeds are rumored to be poisonous.