



# ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

## PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### **Palo Prieto** *Senna polyantha*

**DESCRIPTION:** Palo Prieto is also known under the scientific name *Senna goldmanii*. This deciduous shrub from Baja California grows at a moderate rate to about 10' tall and about 8' wide. The small compound leaves are light green and borne on reddish twigs. In June and July it is covered in masses of bright yellow flowers, followed in fall by large translucent brown pods. It is utilized as a larval food plant by Sulphur butterflies, including the Cloudless Sulphur.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Good as a tall summer screen (you can see through it in winter) and as a background for smaller foreground plantings.

#### **CULTURE:**



**Hardiness:** Hardy to at least 20°F (suffered minor twig damage). Seems to recover well from frost damage if not experienced every year.



**Sun tolerance:** Full sun is recommended.



**Watering and feeding:** Not fully tested. It is very drought tolerant because of its desert origin, but we don't know how good it looks on minimal water. Twice a month irrigation is probably adequate for good appearance. Fertilize once or twice during the late spring and summer.



**Soil requirements:** Does well in thin, rocky soils. Probably needs good drainage.



**Pruning:** Needed only to shape.