



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Brazil Wood or Palo Brasil

Haematoxylum brasiletto

DESCRIPTION: Brazil Wood is closely related to logwood, the tropical tree that is a natural source of red dye for cloth. It grows naturally from northern Sonora, Mexico, south into Colombia. The trunk of this extremely hard-wooded tree becomes beautifully ridged and fluted with age. Brazil Wood can grow to 15' or more at a moderate rate. It has beautiful clusters of yellow flowers that occur sporadically throughout the warm season and are a good nectar source for butterflies.

RECOMMENDED USE: This can be a patio tree, but due to the thorns, plant away from paths. It would make a good accent or background plant for any garden.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: There seems to be genetic variations for cold tolerance. For some trees, brief dips to 24°F produce little or no damage. However, others can be frozen to the ground by the same temperatures. For all, temperatures in the low 20's may be quite damaging or fatal.



Sun tolerance: Full sun is necessary to promote healthy growth and good form. Flowering will suffer and growth will become lanky in too much shade.



Watering and feeding: Although it is somewhat drought tolerant, it does better with regular, moderate water in the warm growing season. Fertilizing is probably not needed.



Soil requirements: Does well in most soils that have drainage, even where caliche is near the surface.



Pruning: Only minimal pruning needed to shape and control water sprouts. As it gets larger, lower spiny branches can be taken off revealing the attractive trunk.