Chihuahuan Whitethorn Acacia

*Vachellia vernicosa*

**DESCRIPTION:**
A closely related species to Whitethorn Acacia (*Vachellia constricta*), Chihuahuan Whitethorn grows in SE Arizona and the Chihuahuan Desert. Its form is that of an ocotillo; tall and spindly. Otherwise the leaves and flowers are like *Vachellia constricta*. It can grow from 6 to 10 feet in height. 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. The small leaves are drought and cold deciduous. The flowers occur in small yellow balls about ½ inch in diameter.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Chihuahuan Whitethorn Acacia is uncommon in desert gardens; it can be trained into barriers or as a large shrub. It can be a good addition to an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape.

**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.