

Celtis pallida, Desert Hackberry

Category: Shrub

Description

Sonoran Desert MVP. This dense, evergreen, thorny shrub screens unwelcome views. Provides food and shelter to numerous species of birds, insects and other wildlife. Abundant orange fruits in the fall are edible by humans and wildlife.

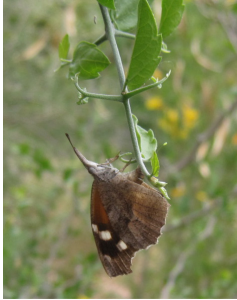


Photo inset: American snout butterfly depositing eggs on hackberry



Photo inset: Verdin nest in hackberry



Characteristics & Culture	
Size (H x W)	12 feet x 8 feet
Sonoran Desert Native?	Yes, Tucson basin and mountains
Native Elevation	1500-4000'
Hardiness	10 degrees F
Bloom Season	Spring
Blossom	Inconspicuous
Seasonality	May drop leaves after severe freeze
Exposure	Full sun to partial shade
Soils	Tolerant - most soil types are acceptable
Water	Low - benefits from water harvesting
Pruning	None
Growth Rate	Moderate with irrigation
Reseeds	Readily

Wildlife Benefits	
Butterfly Larval Host Plant	Empress leila, Hackberry emperor, Tawny emperor, American snout
Moth Larval Host Plant	Small prominent moth, Randa's eyed silk moth
Nectar Plant	Native pollinators
Shelter / Nesting Site / Nest Materials for Birds	Essential habitat plant for native birds and wildlife. Dense, thorny shrub provides safe nesting and refuge.
Food for Birds	Abundant orange fruits in fall feed numerous species of native birds.

Credit: Information is from observation as well as research compiled by Desert Survivors Native Plant Nursery (a great source for native plants in Tucson, AZ).