

Vachellia (Acacia) constricta, Whitethorn Acacia

Category: Shrub

Description

Sonoran Desert MVP. Deciduous medium shrub to small tree that provides vital habitat and food for many native birds, insects and mammals. Fragrant, yellow, puffball flower displays in spring and late summer.



Characteristics & Culture	
Size (H x W)	10 feet x 12 feet
Sonoran Desert Native?	Yes, Tucson basin and mountains
Native Elevation	1500-6500'
Hardiness	-10 degrees F
Bloom Season	Spring and late summer
Blossom	Yellow; very fragrant
Seasonality	Winter deciduous
Exposure	Full sun to part shade
Soils	Tolerant - most soil types are acceptable
Water	Low
Pruning	None
Growth Rate	Moderate with irrigation
Reseeds	Infrequently

Wildlife Benefits	
Butterfly Larval Host Plant	Mexican yellow, Mimosa yellow, Reakirt's blue
Moth Larval Host Plant	Black witch, Merry melipotis, Mesquite stinger flannel, Naval orangeworm
Nectar Plant	Butterflies and other native pollinators
Shelter / Nesting Site / Nest Materials for Birds	Key nesting/foraging/shelter plant for native birds and mammals
Food for Birds	Hosts variety of insects for insectivores like the Verdin, Vireos and Warblers; seeds favored by Gambel's quail

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).