

Huisache

Acacia farnesiana

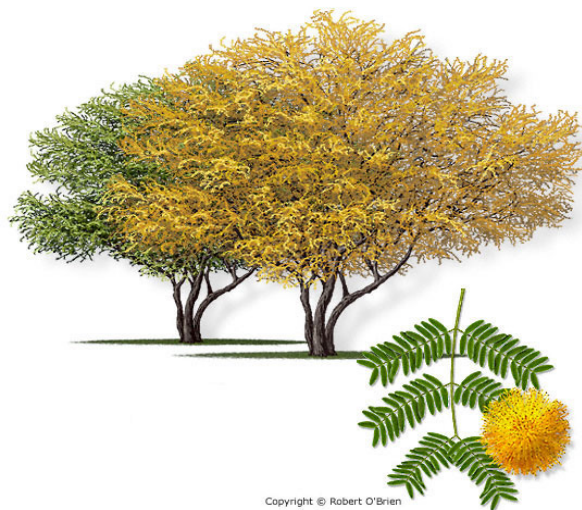
Secondary Names:

Sweet Acacia, Weesatch

Leaf Type: Semi-evergreen

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A common shrub or small tree with light green foliage; often forms a multi-trunked clump shaped like a fountain.

Range/Site Description:

Widespread in South Texas, with small populations extending into Brazos and Travis counties. Occurs on heavy, wet clays and clay-loams.

Leaf:

Leaves almost feather-like, 1" to 4" long with minute leaflets just 0.1" long and too numerous to count. Foliage is gray-green and twigs are armed with a pair of straight thorns up to 2" long at the base of each leaf.

Flower:

The bright, orange-gold flowers are borne in spherical clusters up to 0.75" across, in spring. Very fragrant.

Fruit:

A small brown pod, 1" to 2" long, pointed at the tip. Shiny seeds are borne in two rows within the pod.

Bark:

Reddish-brown and thin on young plants, breaking into flat ridges and shallow furrows on older trees.

Wood:

Bark can be used for tanning, dying, and ink making. Pods have been used to create a mending substance for pottery.

Similar Species:

Honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) can have similar form and bark, but leaves are much larger, greener.

Interesting Facts:

Flowers were collected to manufacture French perfume in 19th century.