

HIGHLINE RANCH HOA

APPROVED TREES

With

PHOTOS AND DESCRIPTIONS

**Approved by the Board of Directors
September 21, 2023**

Highline Ranch Approved Trees
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HOA-Included Trees

All trees that may be planted in front yards are listed here in alphabetical order. They are all low-water-use trees once established.

Acacia aneura

Bonita Ash

Chaste (vitex)

Chinese Pistache

Desert Willow

Ironwood

Chilean Mesquite

Desert Museum Palo Verde

The HOA plants and then maintains one tree per front yard. Such trees ideally are planted at least eight feet from the sidewalk. The Architecture Committee coordinates planting, trimming, and replacing only of HOA-maintained front-yard trees.

Additional Trees

An Owner who wishes to plant additional front-yard trees must obtain prior written approval following the established process for making changes to the exterior of the residence. In addition, the Owner must submit written acknowledgment that all planting and maintenance expenses are the responsibility of the Owner. That written acknowledgment must also be disclosed as part of any future sale of the home.

Acacia aneura

Formal Name: *Acacia aneura*

Other Common Names: mulga acacia

Family: *Fabaceae*

Form: Stiff and pyramidal in shape; can be trained as a single-trunk tree or left as multi-trunk shrub

Seasonality: blooms fall/winter to spring, and sporadically after summer rains

Size/Growth Rate: Slow-growing, long-lived evergreen. 20- to 30-feet tall with somewhat equal spread with age

Leaves: flattened, widened leaf stems called phyllodes serve the function of leaves; silvery gray-green, thin, about three inches in length.

Flowers: yellow rod-shaped flowers with prominent yellow stamens, ¾-inch in diameter

Fruit: formed when flowers turn into flat, brown seed pods

Range/Origin: native to Southwest Queensland in Australia

Hardiness: tolerant to 15°F; drought and heat tolerant

Thorns: No

Allergenic: No

Irritation: None



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- Great in low-water-use areas
- Can be grown as tree or bush
- Good as anchor in xeriscape designs
- Provides soft, filtered shade

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** Full sun; does not tolerate full shade
- **Water:** In cool months, needs little supplemental water after establishment. In hotter months, only every 1-2 weeks. Overwatering will cause too-rapid growth, resulting in ill-shaped, leggy bush or unattractive tree crown, requiring excessive pruning.
- **Soil:** well-drained, sandy to loamy soils, with acidic to neutral pH
- **Maintenance:** Low maintenance; low litter; pruning needed only to give shape to the bush or to raise the crown of the tree

NOTES

- Root nodules contain nitrogen-fixing bacteria, which can be beneficial to plants in the surrounding area.

Bonita Ash

Formal Name: *Fraxinus velutina* 'Bonita'

Other Common Names: Arizona ash, desert ash

Family: Oleaceae

Form: Upright, open, and rounded; broad, lush canopy

Seasonality: Perennial, deciduous in late fall or winter

Size/Growth Rate: fast growth rate; broader than tall; height 30-35 feet; spread 30-40 feet

Leaves: dense green foliage through summer, transforming to brilliant gold/yellow/orange in late fall/early winter before eventually dropping

Flowers: none

Fruit: all 'Bonita' cultivars are male, so they don't develop any messy seedpods

Range/Origin: original desert ash is native to Arizona riparian areas between 3,500 and 7,000 feet elevation.

Hardiness: to 0°F; more cold- and drought-tolerant than native Arizona ash; strong tree that can withstand high winds

Thorns: No

Allergenic: No

Irritation: None



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- Deciduous shade tree
- Winter color
- Focal point in landscape design

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** Full sun, but young trunks need to be protected from direct and/or reflected western sunlight
- **Water:** Drought tolerant once established, needing little supplemental irrigation water
- **Soil:** Tolerates alkaline desert soil
- **Maintenance:** Raise the crown base slowly over time, only as high as needed, so trunk is protected from sunburn.

Chaste Tree

Formal Name: *Vitex agnus-castus*

Other Common Names: vitex, lilac chaste tree, chasteberry,
Monk's pepper tree

Family: Verbenaceae

Form: Upright, arching and spreading

Seasonality: Blooms profusely in early summer (May to June in Phoenix). Leaves turn a golden yellow color in late winter, though the intensity of fall color varies from year to year. Drops sticks and seeds in winter.

Size/Growth Rate: Moderately fast growth to 20 feet with equal spread as single-trunk tree; 10-15 feet as multi-trunk shrub

Leaves: Dark green, medium texture

Flowers: Terminal plumes/spikes of violet blue flowers to 3 inches long

Fruit: Small brown seed capsules on stalks, unsightly, persistent through the winter months.

Range/Origin: Southern Europe, naturalized in the southeastern United States

Hardiness: to 15°F; needs summer heat for best flowering

Thorns: No

Allergenic: No

Irritation: None



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- Can be pruned and trained many different ways: Elevate the canopy base into a small tree, cut back severely to create shrub of any desired height.
- Unique summer-flowering accent tree or shrub
- Useful in xeric or oasis landscapes
- Attracts bees and butterflies

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** Full sun, partial sun
- **Water:** Regular, deep, infrequent water from April to October. Little to no supplemental water needed remainder of year. More water promotes faster growth, but fewer flowers.
- **Soil:** Tolerates alkaline soil
- **Maintenance:** Messy drop of sticks and seeds in winter. Best pruned while dormant from December to early March.

NOTES

- Lilac is preferred over white- or pink-flowering cultivars.

Chinese Pistache

Formal Name: *Pistacia chinensis*

Common Names: none

Family: Anacardiaceae

Form: Umbrella top, coarse branch texture

Seasonality: Perennial

Size/Growth Rate: Moderate to 40 feet with almost equal spread

Leaves: Deciduous, dark green, medium coarse texture; fall and early winter foliage turns scarlet to sometimes yellow

Flowers: Green, non-showy flowers in spring

Fruit: Only on female tree; clusters of round fleshy spheres turn bright red then blue in winter and early spring

Stems/Trunks: Beautiful trunk bark characteristics

Range/Origin: China, Philippines

Hardiness: to 10°F

Thorns: No

Allergenic: No

Irritation: None



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- Shade tree for large residential landscapes
- Fall color
- Fruit loved by birds



CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** Full sun
- **Water:** Moderate; apply regular, deep supplemental water
- **Soil:** Well-drained deep fertile soils are best, avoid sites with shallow soils and caliche
- **Maintenance:** Elevate canopy base to desired height; seasonal litter

NOTES

- There are several cultivars and hybrids with subtle unique accent features. *P. chinensis*' Sarah's Radiance' is a wonderful shade tree with vibrant fall color. *P. atlantica* and *P. lenticus* (small, evergreen dense canopy) are also good for landscape use in the Phoenix area.

Desert Willow

Formal Name: *Chilopsis linearis*
Other Common Names: desert catalpa
Family: Bignoniaceae

Form: Large shrub to small tree; from vigorously upright to weeping; multi-trunk

Seasonality: Perennial

Size/Growth Rate: Fast, to 15 - 35 feet in height with equal or greater spread

Leaves: Deciduous, up to 6 months of the year (November to April), medium green, medium fine texture

Flowers: Late spring to early fall; terminal clusters of white, pink, or purple trumpet-shaped flowers

Fruit: Long, skinny, ugly pods, messy in summer; each contains several small, light brown oval seeds

Stems/Trunks: Brittle wood, shaggy bark

Range/Origin: Southwest U.S., Mexico

Hardiness: to 0°F

Allergenic: No

Irritation: None



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- In an arid zone landscape, suggests presence of water.
- Background screen
- Summer accent tree; can be unsightly in winter
- Pollinated by carpenter bees
- Attracts birds, especially hummingbirds

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** Full sun
- **Water:** Low; needs some supplemental summer water
- **Soil:** Tolerant
- **Maintenance:** Selective pruning of branches can improve the appearance of this tree; otherwise it ends up looking like a leggy small tree; seasonal drop of "sticks and seeds" during winter

NOTES

There are many named cultivars that have unique flower and form characteristics. Some local cultivars include:

- 'Art's Seedless'; sterile flowers and no fruit pods
- 'AZT Desert Amethyst'; all purple flowers
- 'Bubba'; vibrant pink flowers with a compact growth habit
- 'Lois Adams'; large regal pink flowers with limited seed pods
- 'Lucretia Hamilton' - trademarked cultivar; diminutive tree with intense, deep pink to purple flowers

Ironwood

Formal Name: *Olneya tesota*

Other Common Names: desert ironwood

Family: Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Form: Upright and irregular

Seasonality: Semi-evergreen, briefly deciduous

Size/Growth Rate: Slow to moderate to 25-30 feet with equal spread; growth rate and mature height depend on amount of water

Leaves: Gray-green, medium fine texture

Flowers: Dusty lavender in spring

Fruit: 2- to 3-inch long pods with black seeds that are shed in August

Stems/Trunks: Rugged and twisting

Range/Origin: Sonoran Desert

Hardiness: to 20°F

Thorns: Spines below leaves at nodes are nasty and remain on the stems and branches long after leaves have fallen off

Allergenic: No

Irritation: None



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- Native desert tree
- Light shade and accent in any desert landscape

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** Full sun
- **Water:** None to occasional summer irrigations to encourage vigor; excess water will produce many trunk suckers
- **Soil:** Tolerant
- **Maintenance:** Low litter; prune conservatively to shape and to elevate canopy base; remove occasional suckers (water sprouts).

NOTES

- Desert ironwood trees look much better when occasionally deeply watered in summer, although additional water will encourage water sprouts and suckers.

Chilean Mesquite

Formal Name: *Prosopis chilensis* x 'Phoenix'

Other Common Names: Chilean mesquite, South American mesquite

Family: Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Form: Upright and spreading, develops a broadly umbrella-shaped form when mature

Seasonality: Semievergreen perennial

Size/Growth Rate: Fast to 30 feet with equal spread; growth rate strongly dependent on water availability; semi-dormant each year from December to April

Leaves: Dark green, fine texture

Flowers: Greenish-yellow flowers in 2-inch catkins in April

Fruit: Elongated and slightly twisted light brown pod, ripens in July; often bursts open

Stems/Trunks: Inner crown branch topology is chaotic; rugged trunk and crown character

Range/Origin: South America

Hardiness: to 15°F

Thorns: Variant *Prosopis chilensis* x Phoenix is thornless; others have variable thorns

Allergenic: No

Irritation: None



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- Summer shade tree for dry or oasis landscapes

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** Full sun; no shade
- **Water:** Very low; limit water to control rapid growth and windstorm uprooting. **DO NOT** irrigate regularly as this will cause the tree to grow structurally weak wood.
- **Soil:** Highly tolerant of Sonoran Desert soil conditions; performs best in native, unamended desert soil
- **Maintenance:** Prune rigorously when young to train a strong and limited scaffold branch system. Also prune to raise crown to improve under-canopy access and to decrease wind resistance in mature mesquite trees. Heavy litter through much of the year from shedding of catkins and pods.

NOTES

- South American mesquites are popular because of their rapid growth, apparent lower water requirement, and strong shading potential, but beware of their aggressive spreading habit.
- Avoid Argentinian mesquite (*Prosopis alba*) that spreads to 80-100 feet.
- Much genetic variation and local hybridization between varieties of mesquites makes identification difficult using only observable characteristics.

Hybrid Palo Verde

Formal Name: *Parkinsonia* x 'Desert Museum'
(formerly *Cercidium* hybrid)

Other Common Names: Desert Museum palo verde

Family: Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Form: Distinctively upright; airy canopy

Seasonality: Semi-evergreen; partially deciduous in drought

Size/Growth Rate: Dependent on water availability. Fast to 25 feet with equal spread

Leaves: Long, slender, fine-textured leaves and tiny leaflets; brighter green than blue or foothill palo verde

Flowers: Lemon yellow with a red center; large for a palo verde; longer blooming period than blue or foothill, especially with supplemental water during summer

Fruit: Very few seedpods

Stems/Trunks: Smooth, brighter green than blue or foothill.

Range/Origin: Sonoran Desert

Hardiness: to 15°F; drought tolerant

Thorns: None

Allergenic: No

Irritation: None



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- Attracts birds year-round, bees when in flower
- Lightly filtered shade

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** Full/reflected sun
- **Water:** Very low; none after establishment. Supplemental irrigation greatly increases vigor and canopy density, but AVOID shallow watering or overwatering to prevent weak root and branch structures.
- **Soil:** Needs well-drained
- **Maintenance:** Seasonal litter. Prune to raise canopy base height.

NOTES

- Combines best qualities of *P. floridum*, *P. microphylla*, and *P. aculeata*.
- DO NOT overwater, to avoid a weak tree that will not survive monsoon winds.

Bonita Ash and Acacia aneura trees.

--p.1, paragraph 1: replaced "They are all low-water-use trees suggested by the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA) with "They are all low-water-use trees once established."

--Updated TOC.