



Blue Palo Verde *Parkinsonia florida* Palo Verde

Description:

Height: 25-40 feet tall

Spread: 25 feet

Flowers: 2-4" across. yellow flowers with five petals, and orange spots in the center

Leaves: 1/4" long, one to three pairs of leaflets on each pinna

Pea Pods: 2-3" long pods with flat tan seed pods

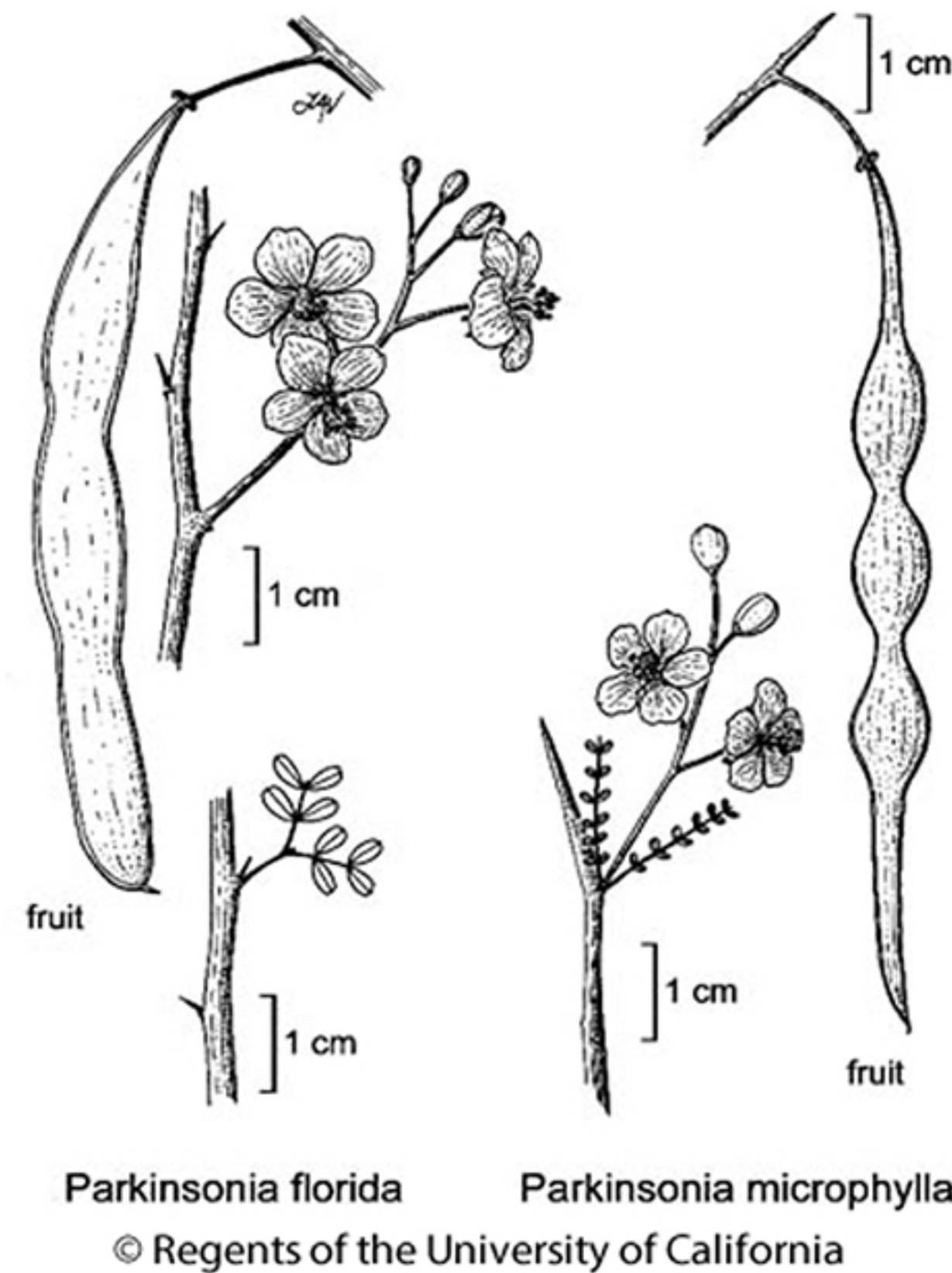
Flowering: March/April

Harvesting: Just before monsoon season

Lifespan: 30-50 years

Uses:

The tree is best known for its green color, which indicates high levels of chlorophyll. Chlorophyll has many benefits such as reducing inflammation and bacterial growth in wounds, boosting energy and red blood cell quality, detoxifies the blood and liver, prevents cancer, and promotes weight loss.



Parkinsonia florida *Parkinsonia microphylla*
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The Blue Palo Verde's seeds were ground in mortars by native peoples to make flour. The dry seeds can also be roasted and eaten, or the fresh seed pods can be blanched and consumed with other foods. The flowers may also be eaten the same way as lettuce.

Native Cultures:

The Blue Palo Verde is used by native cultures throughout the southwest, including the Hohokam, Tohono O'odham, and Akimel O'odham peoples.

Habitats:

Blue Palo Verdes are found mainly in dry washes, flood plains, and canyons. They play a large role by providing food

Pollinators:

The tree attracts bees, beetles, and flies as pollinators.

Flowering:

Parkinsonia florida is one of the earliest blooms in spring in Arizona, appearing in Late March through mid-April. The flowers are bright yellow and cover the entire tree.



Notes

The Blue Palo Verde is the state tree of Arizona. Because they are so hardy, the trees can live up to 400 years. Pima stories claim that the blue palo verde tree came to being after a little girl, angry with her grandmother, ran away from home. She proclaims that she will turn into the tree so she can change the bare mountains into green.

Resources:

Illustration: Wojciechowski, M.F. (2012). *Parkinsonia florida*, in Jepson Flora Project (eds.) Jepson eFlora, https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=36268
Photographs: Brayden Yeager