



Mesquite Tree

Prosopis glandulosa, *Prosopis velutina*,
Prosopis pubescens

Honey Mesquite, Velvet Mesquite, Screwbean

Description:

Height: 30-50' tall

Flowers: bloom on catkins, yellow

Pods: yellow-green

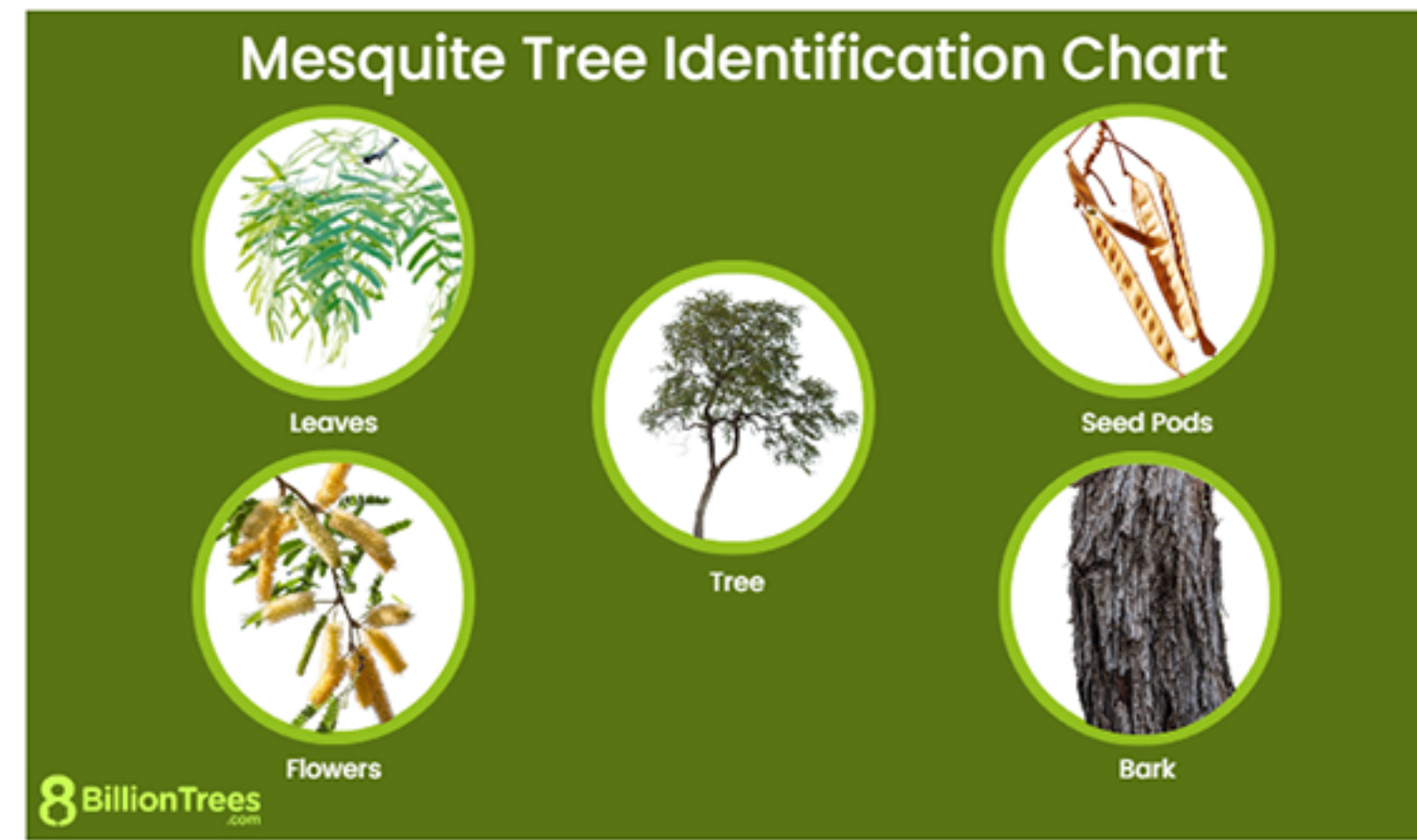
Fruit: edible seeds inside pods

Flowering: Spring

Uses:

Mesquite is best known for its hardwood and pods.

Pods have been used for decades for food making. The pods' inner seeds are ground in a stone or hardwood mortar and can be used for sweet meals, such as breads and cakes. These seeds are also sometimes dried out and ground into a meal for an extra taste. The leaves, bark, and roots can be collected at any time of year, while fruit pods are only collected during the



spring and summer months when they are green and sweet.

Mesquite's leaves were used for medicinal purposes in the Pima tribe. Leaves were boiled with water and then applied to the sore fingers or lips. They would also eat them raw for gut health benefits. Leaves were boiled with water and used as a treatment against the pinkeye.

Mesquite's hardwood is used in furniture making.

Native Cultures:

Mesquite trees have provided resources for many tribes such as Pima, Navajo, Apache, and Maricopa.

Habitats:

Mesquite trees have adapted to withstand long periods of drought, thus they require minimal water to grow. Mesquites tend to grow in or near washes and ravines. They can be found within deserts in Arizona, Texas, and Mexico.

Flowering:

Flowers bloom on spike-like catkins from mid-March to the end of May. Flowers have a yellow color and they grow all throughout the tree making it appear glowy.



Folklore/Notes:

The people of Pima tribe named the mesquite tree a "Tree of Life" because of its ability to provide essential supplies such as food, bark, leaves during long periods of drought.

Resources:

Illustration: Kilgore, G. (8 May 2023). 77 Mesquite Tree Types: Benefits, Growing Locations, Care Tips. Forestry, Trees, and Tree Planting.
Photographs: Shaddi Kaltayev