

# CAMPUS ARBORETUM



Focus on:

*Dermatophyllum secundiflorum* 'Silver Peso'

'Silver Peso' Texas mountain laurel

Fabaceae



'Silver Peso' is a cloned cultivar of the much loved Texas mountain laurel, a native, woody, perennial broadleaf evergreen large shrub or small tree found in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. While both the straight species and the cultivar are very slow growing, 'Silver Peso' is slightly smaller (~10 feet tall) and has distinctive silver-grey colored leaves covered in minute, fuzzy hairs. Like the better known parent, the flowers arrive in early spring, are light purple in color, and highly fragrant with the smell of grape bubblegum. The "sweet pea"-type flowers are arranged in a 2-ranked pattern along the stalk, which earned it the specific epithet "secundiflora".

To learn more, visit this Campus Arboretum Species Description Page found at:  
<https://apps.cals.arizona.edu/arboretum/taxon.aspx?id=822>





New growth on 'Silver Peso' is not only highly reflective, (almost metallic) but silky soft.



Seed pods often have only one seed and are also covered with soft velvety hairs.



**Cultivation:**

'Silver Peso' thrives in hot, dry climates and is tolerant of freezing

temperatures as it is classified for USDA hardiness zones 7-9 or Sunset heat zones 8-16, and 18-24 (1). It prefers full sun, well-drained soil and is tolerant of various soil types, including sandy, loamy, or rocky soils with a pH that is slightly alkaline. Once established, 'Silver Pesos' is drought-tolerant and requires minimal watering. However, regular watering during the first few years of establishment helps promote healthy growth. This plant is well suited to use in residential urban landscapes as an ornamental because of its beauty, fragrant flowers, environmental tolerance and smaller size.



The foothills paloverde are multi-trunked with major branches arising low on the trunk.



Foothills paloverde also have a distinct yellow undertone to their green branches and stems.

Thanks for joining me on my journey to see and understand trees! The health of the planet and our fellow humans depends on respectful and understanding tree selection choices. I hope you're inspired to deepen the connection by visiting campus. and using the [interactive arboretum map](#) to find the tree featured in this spotlight for a more immersive education and sensory experience.

Enjoy!

*Tanya*

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