

CAMPUS ARBORETUM



Focus on:
Haematoxylum brasiletto
"Brazilwood"
Fabaceae



Brazilwood was first documented in Mexico in the 1900's. This tropical hardwood is distributed throughout Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Columbia where it is also appreciated for its ability to survive in various habitats from tropical forests to desert scrub. It is also valued as a landscape ornamental due to its unique, sculptural trunk and zig-zagging branches. However, where conditions are less ideal, (especially where winters are cool), the species will remain shrubby and the sculptural form obscured.

To learn more, visit this Campus Arboretum Species Description page found at: <https://apps.cals.arizona.edu/arboretum/taxon.aspx?id=704>



The leaflets of Brazilwood are heart shaped and are displayed opposite each other along the rachis...giving the appearance of matching hearts :)



Thin wavy legume pods appear in Summer



Bright yellow showy flowers appear in Spring.

Ethnobotanical Uses:

Brazilwood is used for production of lumber and medicine. It is known to have antibiotic properties and has been used to treat fevers, inflammation, stomach pains, and other ailments. The wood has a rich red heartwood, used by Mexican natives to make instruments and used throughout South America to produce a red dye. As a landscape ornamental, it is well suited as a patio tree as a striking specimen.

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 the 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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