



Campus Arboretum



Focus on:
Senegalia wrightii
"Wright's catclaw"
Fabaceae



Like its cousin, the catclaw acacia, Wright's acacia has much about it for us to love. Growing a little larger and with a more upright form, Wright's acacia is an excellent choice for areas where pedestrian traffic requires clearance underneath the canopy and where pedestrians need shade. Named to honor botanist Charles Wright, Wright's acacia is native to the Chihuahuan desert, with distribution extending from northeastern Mexico, and southwestern Texas, into New Mexico, and southeastern Arizona. This drought tolerant tree grows best in full sun, in almost any well-drained soil and requires virtually no maintenance if pruned for structure in the first 3 years after planting.

To learn more, visit this Campus Arboretum Species Description page found at: <https://apps.cals.arizona.edu/arboretum/taxon.aspx?id=948>



Fast growing to 25 or 30 feet tall and wide, Wright's acacia produces small, light-medium green obovate leaflets that are packed tightly in pinnately compound leaves and arranged alternately on the stems. Coupled with their fine and many-branched stems, the tree canopy is dense and casts excellent shade in the summer.



Tiny catclaw-like thorns are scattered on the trunk and the branches.



Fruits are flat, legume pods that curl at maturity and turn tan-brown.

Ethnobotanical Uses:

A. wrightii is used medicinally in the same ways as its cousin the catclaw acacia is. However, given its upright

form and larger size, it is valued as an ornamental and effective shade tree in urban landscapes and xeriscape gardens.



Wright's catclaw. Fragrant flowers and sweet in so many ways!

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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