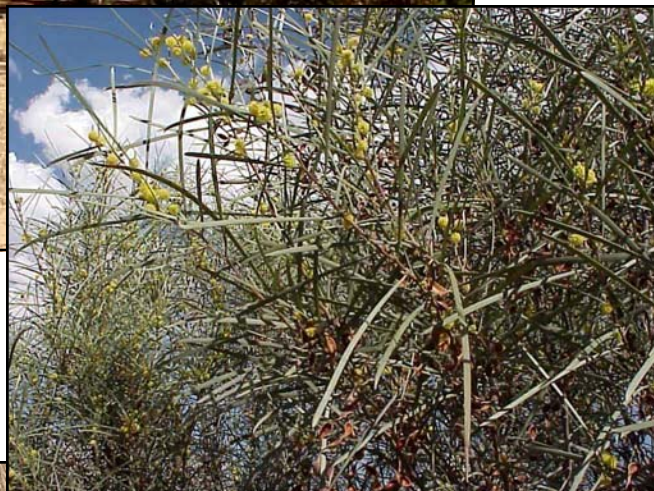


# Arid Zone Trees



## *Acacia coriacea*, Desert Oak



### Horticultural Qualities

*Acacia coriacea*

Desert Oak

**Foliage:** Evergreen

**Mature Height:** 10' to 30'

**Mature Width:** 10' to 20'

**Growth Rate:** Moderate

**Hardiness:** 20 degrees F

**Exposure:** Full Sun

**Leaf Color:** Light Green

**Shade:** Filtered

**Flower Color:** Cream

**Flower Shape:** Ball

**Flower Season:** Spring

**Thorns:** None

**Box Sizes Produced:** 24"

**Propagation Method:** Seed

[www.aridzonetrees.com](http://www.aridzonetrees.com)

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## *Acacia coriacea*, Desert Oak

**Acacia coriacea**, *Desert Oak*, is another native Australian evergreen with a relatively small compact form that can grow either as a small tree or a large dense shrub. The literature reports mature heights in native Australian stands ranging from 6 to 8 feet all the way up to reports of trees nearly 30 feet tall. This wide range in heights may be due to genetic diversity of seed sources or regional growing conditions. Native primarily to northern Australian it is found in the northern reaches of New South Wales and in New Holland on the eastern coast. It grows in open woodlands on sandy soils and stony ridges. The specie name coriacea come from a botanical term coriaceous meaning leathery, thick or tough and generally refers to the trees leaves. Leaves are narrow and elongate, up to 6 inches long, ash-colored to light green, covered with very fine close hair. The trunk color is similar to the leaves with dispersed somewhat weepy branches. It flowers primarily in spring and autumn, but also at other times of year following rains, producing cream colored, ball-shaped flowers. Curved or twisted, brown to reddish brown pods 6 - 9 inches long, split to release smooth brown seeds when mature.

This tree should find wide use in desert landscape wherever lush, evergreen, thornless trees are needed. *A. coriacea* can be used to compliment deciduous trees and shrubs in winter months, as patio trees, in courtyards, or to provide shelter and shade for under-story plantings.

### *Cultural Practices*

Foster the development of a more dispersed root system and reduces the risk of wind throw by arranging irrigation emitters at varying distances from the trunk to encourage roots to "seek out" water and nutrients. Irrigation emitter arrangement along with other information on irrigations practices for desert trees can be found at [www.aridzonetrees.com](http://www.aridzonetrees.com) and click on the FAQ link.

Seasonal Pruning: Periodic thinning during the growing season is the most desirable method of pruning. Thin trees before the monsoon season to reduce wind damage to branches and uprooting of trees. Do not remove more than 30% of the canopy during the summer as this can lead to heavy flush growth and sun-burn injuries that can later be invaded by wood boring insects. Avoid hedging or heading back desert species, as this will only stimulate excessive branching. For trees less than 7 years old, monthly light pruning (removal of no more than 20% to 30% of the leaf mass) during the growing season will keep the root to foliage mass ratio equal, not stimulate excessive flush growth, allow optimal photosynthesis to occur, initiate quicker root and tip branch growth, prevent sun burn injury and lessen the likelihood of wind damage. Always use clean, sharp tools that are regularly cleaned in a 10% solution of bleach. For detail pruning guide see [www.aridzonetrees.com](http://www.aridzonetrees.com) and click on the FAQ interactive button.

Periodically insect pests can be a problem on some desert trees. On young trees, insect infestation can slow typical seasonal growth. Inspect trees during the growing season for common garden sucking insects such as aphids, thrip, whiteflies or psyllids. Spray applications of water or water and Safer Soap give short-term control (3 to 7 days) for small insect population. For heavy infestation or longer control use federally registered insecticides. A contact insecticide application will kill existing adults. An application with a systemic soil drench will provide 8 to 12 weeks control for any post application insect hatchings or migration of insects. **Before using pesticide for the first time or on new plants or cultivar, treat a few plants and check for phytotoxicity. Always read label and follow label instruction before using pesticides. For pesticide control recommendations contact a licensed pest control advisor.**

[www.aridzonetrees.com](http://www.aridzonetrees.com)