

Caesalpinia gilliesii

(Desert Bird of Paradise)

This open upright shrub has a feathery appearance, with its light pinnate leaves bearing pairs of pinnae each with pairs of leaflets. It is native to Argentina and Uruguay and can grow up to 4 meters tall depending on rainfall. The large exotic flowers are borne in racemes up to 20 cm long, each flower with five showy yellow petals. They are very long-blooming, even in the heat of the summer. Hummingbirds find the blooms irresistible.

The seeds are poisoned if ingested.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

**French Name:** Mimosa du Japon, Oiseau de Paradis

**Pronunciation:** ses-al-PIN-ee-uh gil-EEZ-ee-eye

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Origin:** Argentina and Uruguay

**Heat Zones:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

**Hardiness Zones:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

**Uses:** Specimen, Border Plant, Mass Planting, Container

Size/Shape

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Tree Shape:** Upright

**Canopy Symmetry:** Irregular

**Canopy Density:** Open

**Canopy Texture:** Medium

**Height at Maturity:** 1.5 to 3 m, 3 to 5 m

**Spread at Maturity:** 1.5 to 3 meters

**Time to Ultimate Height:** 5 to 10 Years

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Flower Image

## Botanical Description

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### Foliage

**Leaf Venation:** Pinnate

**Leaf Persistence:** Semi Evergreen

**Leaf Type:** Bipinnately compound

**Leaf Blade:** 20 - 30

**Leaf Shape:** Linear

**Leaf Margins:** Entire

**Leaf Textures:** Medium

**Leaf Scent:** No Fragrance

**Color(growing season):** Green

**Color(changing season):** Green

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### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** True

**Flower Size Range:** 10 - 20

**Flower Type:** Raceme

**Flower Sexuality:** Monoecious (Bisexual)

**Flower Scent:** No Fragrance

**Flower Color:** Yellow, Red

**Seasons:** Spring, Summer, Fall

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### Trunk

**Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Generally resists breakage

**Number of Trunks:** Multi-Trunked

**Trunk Esthetic Values:** Smooth

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### Fruit

**Fruit Type:** Legume

**Fruit Showiness:** False

**Fruit Size Range:** 3 - 7

**Fruit Colors:** Brown

**Seasons:** Spring, Summer, Fall

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Leaf Image

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### Horticulture Management

#### Tolerance

**Heat Tolerant:** Yes

**Drought Tolerant:** Yes

**Salt Tolerance:** Good

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#### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Clay, Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

**Water Requirements:** Moderate

**Light Requirements:** Full, Part

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#### Management

**Toxity:** Yes

**Invasive Potential:** Yes

**Pruning Requirement:** No pruning at all

**Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter:** No

**Surface Rooting:** No

**Life Span:** Less than 25

**Edible Parts:**

**Pests:** Mites, Whitefly, Mealy-Bug

**Plant Propagations:** Seed

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## MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image