

Zizyphus spina christi

(Christ's Thorn Jujube)

Zizyphus spina-christi can be a shrub, or a medium size tree, can reach reaching 20 m in height . The bark light-grey and very cracked, the trunk has many branches. The crown is drooping the whole plant is full of thorns . The tree develops an extremely deep taproot and has extraordinary regenerative power. . The thorny branches are used for fencing. The tree improves soil quality by increasing available Phosphorus. Used for erosion control due to its very deep taproot and spreading lateral roots. Can tolerate high heat but no frost.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

Arabic Name: عتّاب

Plant Type: Tree

Origin: Tropical Africa, Southern and Western Asia

Heat Zones: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Hardiness Zones: 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Screen, Shade, Edible, Medicinal, Erosion control

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Spreading

Canopy Symmetry: Irregular

Canopy Density: Dense

Canopy Texture: Medium

Height at Maturity: 15 to 23 m

Spread at Maturity: Over 15 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: 10 to 20 Years

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Leaf Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Parallel

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Smooth, Fine

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: False

Flower Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Flower Type: Cyme

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Green, Yellow

Seasons: Spring, Summer

Trunk

Trunk Has Crownshaft: False

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Suspected to breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Trunk Esthetic Values: Showy, Fissured

Fruit

Fruit Type: Drupe

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 3 - 7

Fruit Colors: Yellow, Brown, Red, Black

Seasons: Spring, Summer

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Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam

Soil Ph Requirements: Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Low

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Toxity: No

Invasive Potential: Yes

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: No pruning at all

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: Yes

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: 25-50 years

Edible Parts: Fruit

Plant Propagations: Seed
