

## 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

---

# Zizyphus spina christi

(Christ's Thorn Jujube)



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

---

## Zizyphus spina christi

(Christ's Thorn Jujube)



Plant Image

---

### 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

**Toxicity:** 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

---