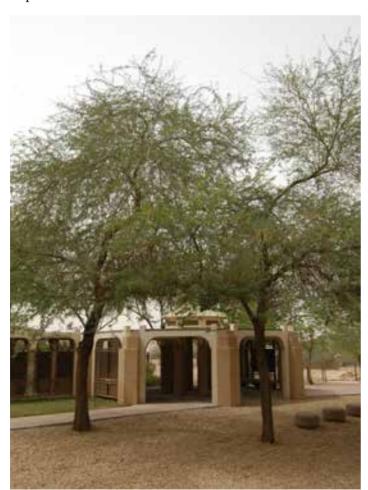
Common Mesquite, Arizona Mesquite, Velvet Mesquite, ghaf bahri

The Common Mesquite, known as ghaf bahri in Arabic, has its origins in tropical America, and most probably 'invaded' Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states during the late 1950s (CE) from Indo-Pakistan. Mesquite has a loose, spreading crown of twigs and fern-like foliage on a short trunk with rough, dark-brown bark. A fast-growing, deciduous tree up to 7 metres tall and 10 metres wide, armed with pairs of spines, it has alternate, bipinnate, dull-green, and in spring brightgreen, leaves. The drooping, creamy-white flower tassels up to 10 cm long appear in mid-spring. The slightly curved pods are up to 12 cm long, and are brown when ripe. P. juliflora grows in sandy and silty soil and has long invasive roots; it tolerates a high water table as well as inundation and extreme salinity. It requires full sun and is frost-tolerant, but the foliage will suffer considerably after very sharp frosts. Although extremely drought-tolerant, it grows very slowly without water: occasional deep irrigation promotes better growth. Propagation is by seeds, root suckers, and hardwood cuttings. An invasive species keeping down indigenous grass and shrubs, the Mesquite is not usually browsed. More attractive as a multi-trunked tree, good staking and frequent pruning of a straight strong leader are necessary for a tall standard. A dripping dark fluid can stain paving, while some people are allergic to the pollen. Leaf and pod litter is a problem. Trees are very suitable for afforestation, soil erosion control, stabilisation of sand dunes, and soil improvement.









GENERAL

Humidity

Origin : Mediterranean, sub-tropical

Vigour : normal growth

rate

extremely arid, very arid, semiarid, semi-humid,

very humid

Propagation : sowing and

pricking out, cuttings

Maintenance : moderate

CONDITIONS

Urban climate:resistantDessication:resistantStagnant water:resistantIrrigation:low

Salinity/ppm : very high (30000

ppm)

Hardiness : -18°C

SHAPE

 Type
 : tree

 Height
 : 5 m-15 m

 Spread
 : 6 m-12 m

 Foliage
 : semi-evergreen

FLOWER

Colour : pale yellow
Size : 6 cm - 10 cm
Period : March - June

FRUIT

Type of fruit : pod

Fruit size : 12 cm - 25 cm

Toxicity : edible when processed