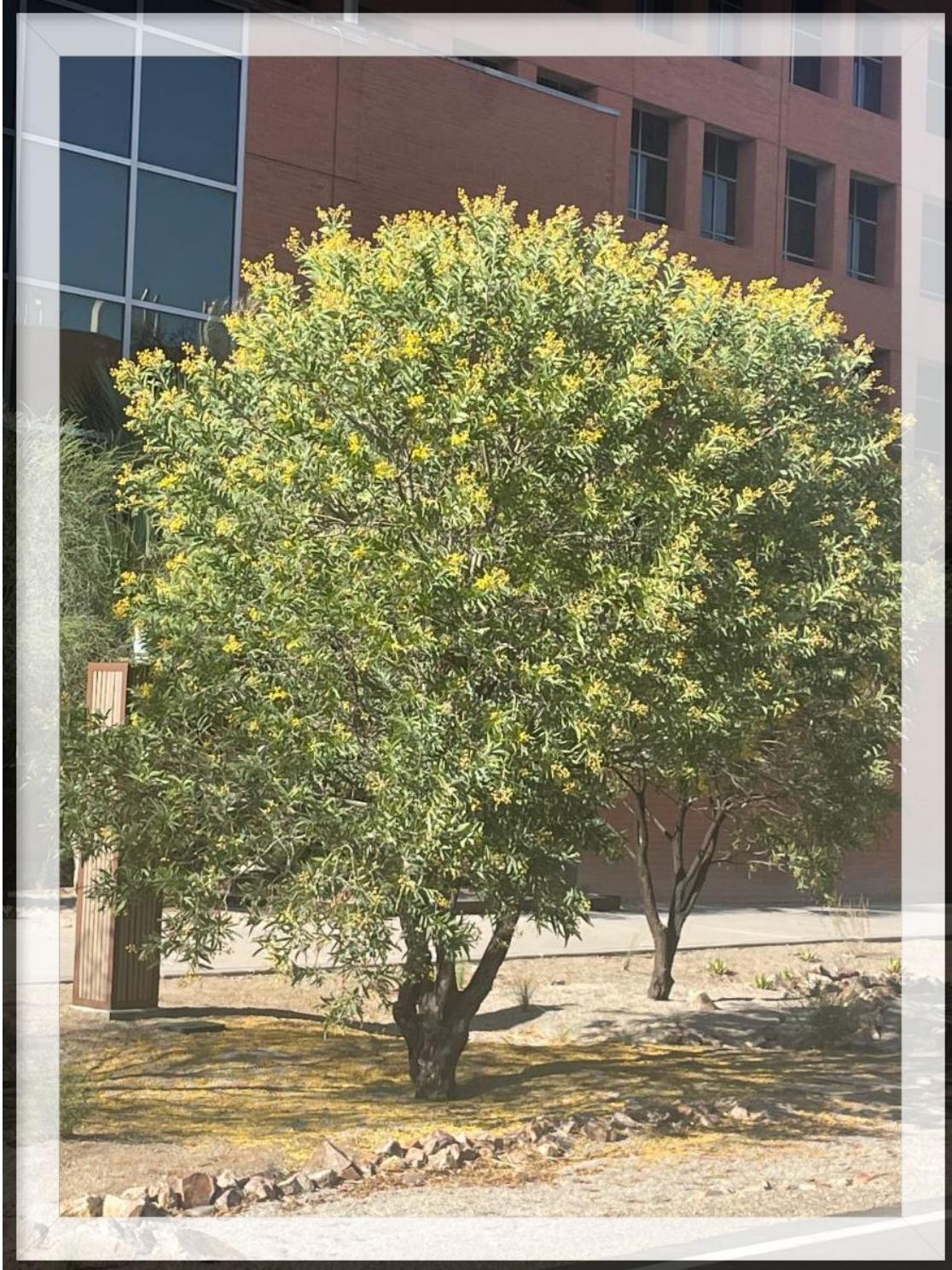


CAMPUS ARBORETUM



Focus on:
Acacia pruniocarpa
"black gidgee"
Fabaceae



“black gidgee”, the common name for *Acacia pruinocarpa*, seems to be a much too understated name to describe a truly remarkable tree! This small, slow-growing, thornless tree, occurs naturally in arid areas of Western Australia. It reaches 20 feet tall and wide with a rounded canopy and a somewhat well-defined central leader. A single upright trunk can be ensured by pruning for structure in the first five years. The leaves are long, elegant, velvety sage colored phyllodes resulting from their coating of powdery wax, sometimes described as “pruinose”.

This species was selected from among the many stress-adapted trees growing at the Desert Legume Program's test fields in 2011 as it appeared to thrive through the century's coldest winter in Tucson. In 2013, undergraduate student interns planted one on campus on the south side of Chavez, where it continues to amaze year-round with its perfectly formed sage canopy, its spring and summer yellow inflorescent “glow” and persistent flat, tan pods.

This tree produces a dense and darkly colored wood used for making furniture,

wood crafts and musical instruments, makes a highly nutritious feed for livestock (containing 13% crude protein and abundant minerals) (3) but has great potential as an ornamental for urban landscapes in the southwest.

To learn more, visit this Campus Arboretum Species Description Page found at: <https://apps.cals.arizona.edu/arboretum/taxon.aspx?id=947>



Flowers are yellow 1/2" globes borne on racemes that cover the tree from April-June.



(Above/Below) Young stems and leaves are covered with a waxy powder).



(Below) Flat bean pods develop in summer and persist on the tree through winter.



Thanks for joining me on my journey to see and understand trees! The health of the planet and our fellow humans depends on respectful and understanding tree selection choices. I hope you're inspired to deepen the connection by visiting campus, and using the [interactive arboretum map](#) to find the tree featured in this spotlight for a more immersive education and sensory experience.



Enjoy!

Tanya

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