PLANT FACT SHEET

Cercidium microphyllum (Torr.) Rose & I. M. Johnst.

GENUS *Cercidium* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Foothill palo verde, Small-leaved palo verde

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Pods, Flowers

The seeds are eaten fresh or ground and mixed with mesquite meal. They are also used for drinks.
The young pods are boiled with meat.
The flowers are also eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It is upright and branches often. It grows about 5 m tall. The leaves are yellowish-green. Leaves can be shed in hot dry periods. The bark is green and can use sunlight for photosynthesis. The flowers are at the end of the branches. The fruit are soft pods 4-8 cm long. They are depressed between the seeds.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in the Sonoran Desert.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Seedlings need water for the first 2-3 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing. Trees can live for several hundred years.

NOTES

Also as Caesalpinaceae.

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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