



*Parkinsonia*  
“Palo Verde Tree”  
*Fabaceae (Pea Family)*

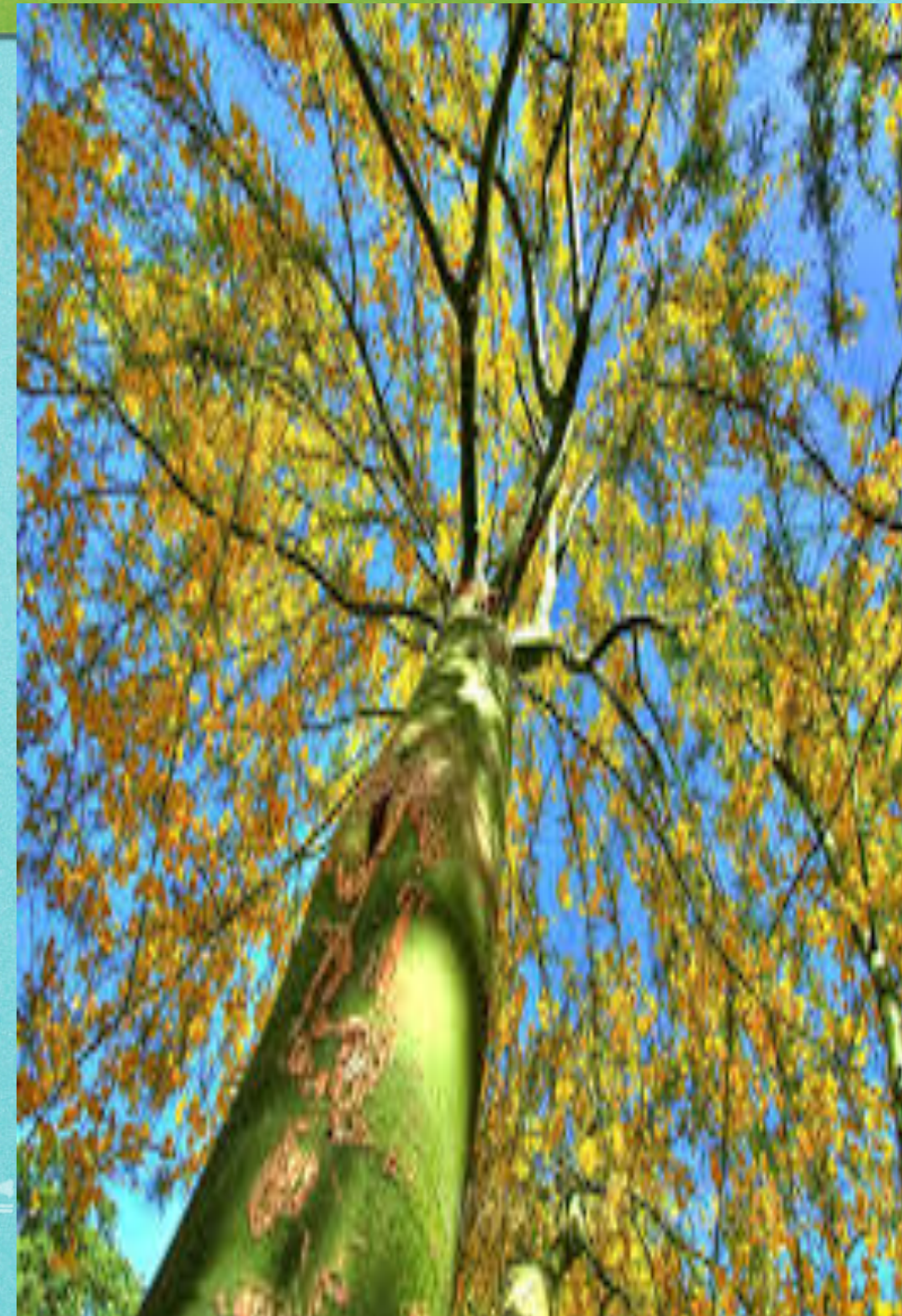
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MG Training Class of 2016





# “Palo Verde” Tree

- ▶ Native to Mexico (Arizona/South America)
- ▶ Palo Verde = “Green Stick”
- ▶ Yellow-green bark
- ▶ Uses chlorophyll in bark for photosynthesis
- ▶ Deciduous flowering tree
- ▶ Thorny branches; alternate leaf
- ▶ Monoecious
- ▶ 5 Petal Yellow Flowers
- ▶ Peak bloom in summer; flowers several times
- ▶ Fruit = legume (seed pod)



# The Good News

- ▶ Very drought tolerant - does well in alkaline soil and excessive heat
- ▶ Grows quickly then tops out 15-25 feet tall
- ▶ Doesn't require significant irrigation
- ▶ Attracts bees
- ▶ Average age is 100 years (some up to 400 years)
- ▶ Provides shade and used as a filter for cactus



# The Other News

- ▶ Reseeds and can be invasive in some areas
- ▶ Larvae of Palo Verde Rootborers feed on the trees
- ▶ Grubs live underground up to 3 years and cause damage
- ▶ 3 1/2" beetles that fly!



# Back to Good News

- ▶ Desert Museum hybrid
- ▶ Thornless, sterile (does not reseed)
- ▶ Longer blooming season
- ▶ 30 feet tall
- ▶ Less messy leaf drop
- ▶ Not good for human shade but good for gardening shade for veggies

