

**A C A C I A
T R E E S
&
S H R U B S**

P R E S E N T E D B Y :
B E T H V A N B O X T E L

FAMILY & COMMON NAMES

Family: Fabaceae (fuh-bay-see-e) (Pea Family)

Subfamily: Mimosoideae (mem-ohsoy-dee-e)

Genera: *Acacia*, *Acaciella*, *Mariosousa*, *Senegalia* and *Vachellia*

Common names:

Mimosa, acacia, thorn tree, wattle (Australia)

Derived from ancient Greek word for thorn

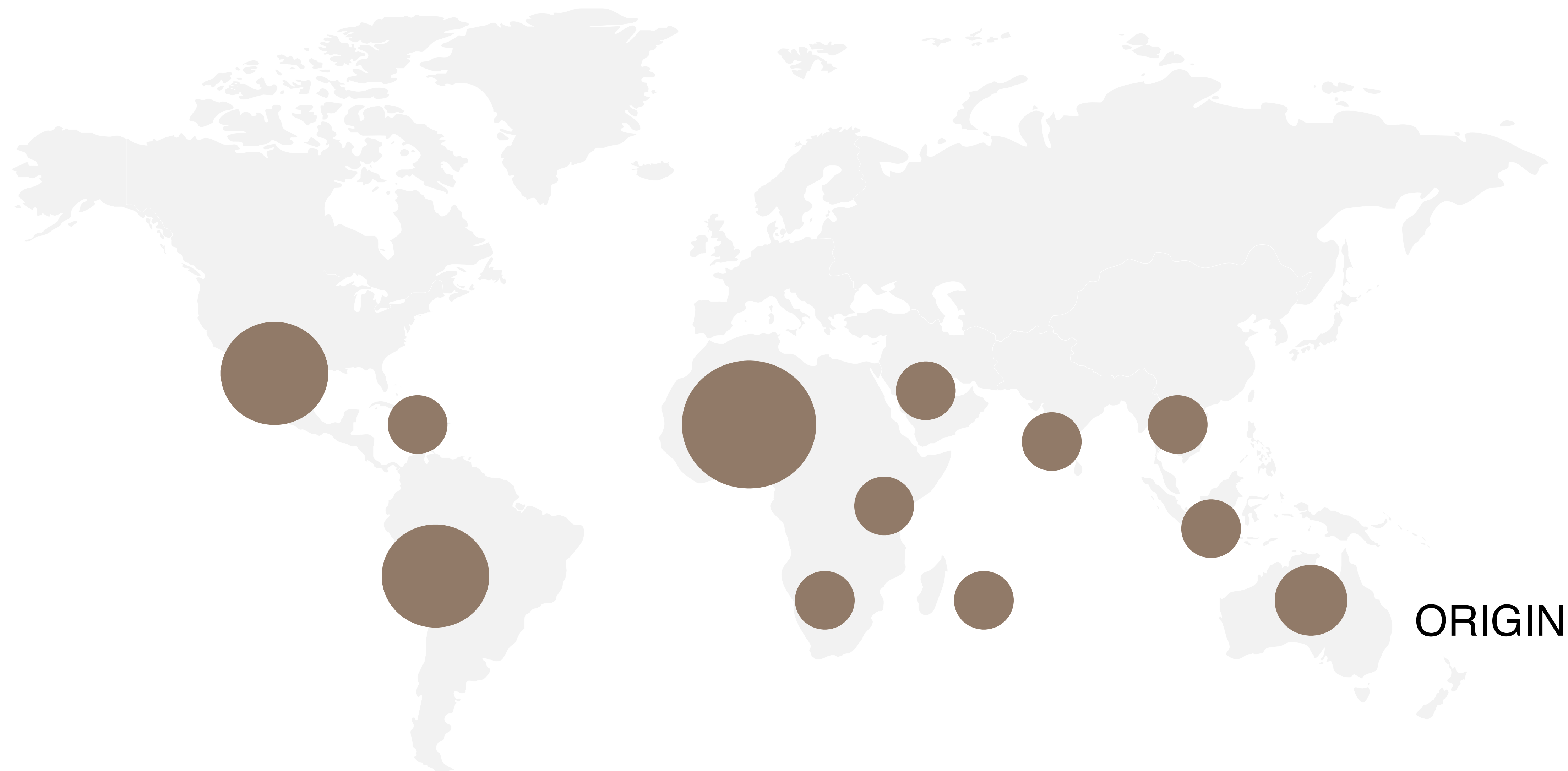


PLANT QUALITIES

1. Pinnate leaves: Acacia leaves grow in rows that surround a central stem. This gives some species of acacia a feathery, fern-like quality.
2. Phyllodes (leaf stems) and cladodes (flattened shoots) that look like leaves and stems: Not all acacia "leaves" are actually leaves.
3. Small but vibrant flowers: Most produce either yellow flowers or white flowers. These flowers have minimal petals and vibrant, showy stamens. They can be found clustered together in either spherical heads or in elongated spikes.

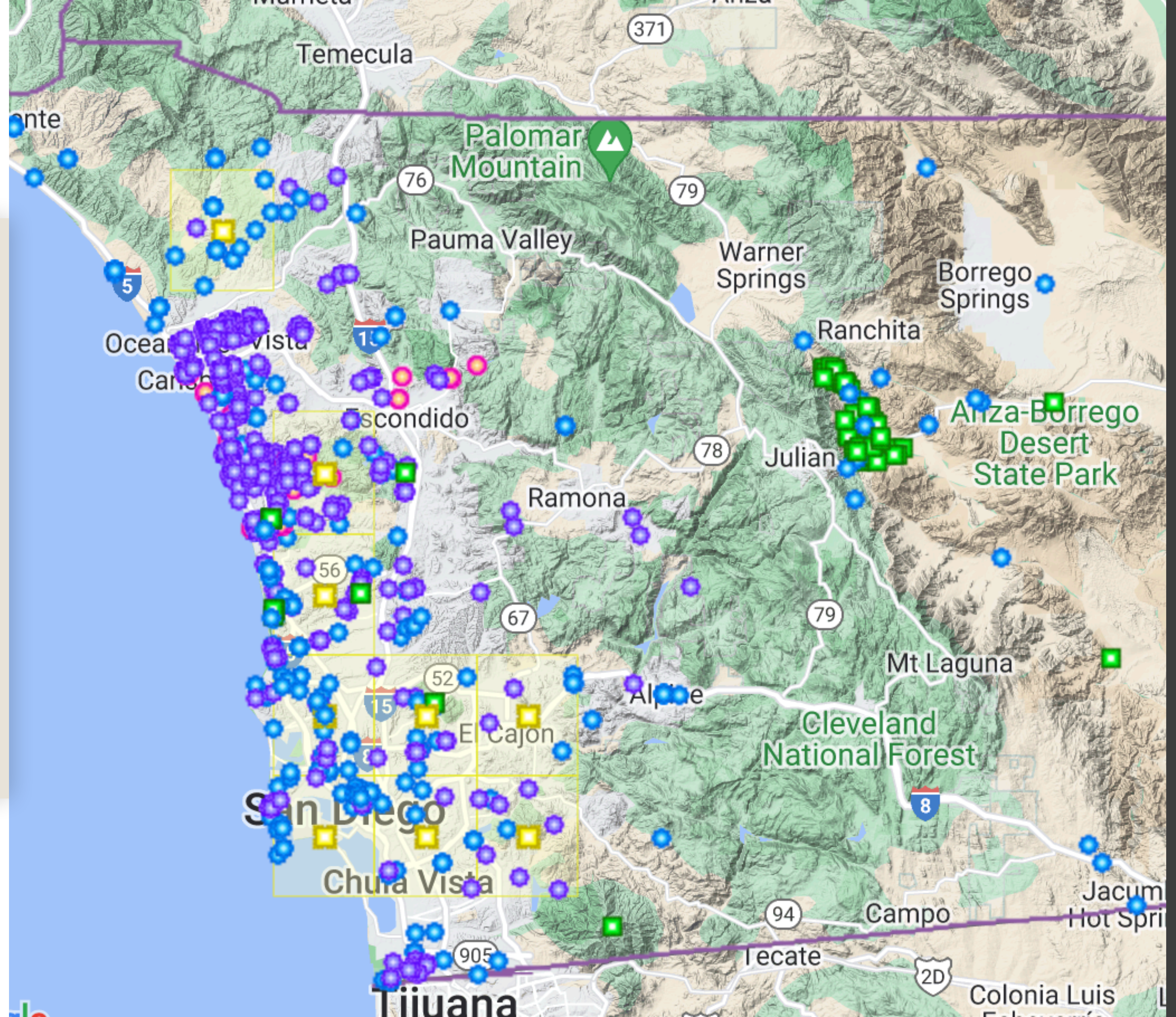


WHERE IT GROWS BEST



LOCAL ACACIA

This is a map of
crowd-sourced
trees and shrubs in
San Diego County



OTHER PLACES TO SEE IT

There are small and
mid-size collections in
the USA.



**SAN DIEGO BOTANIC
GARDEN**



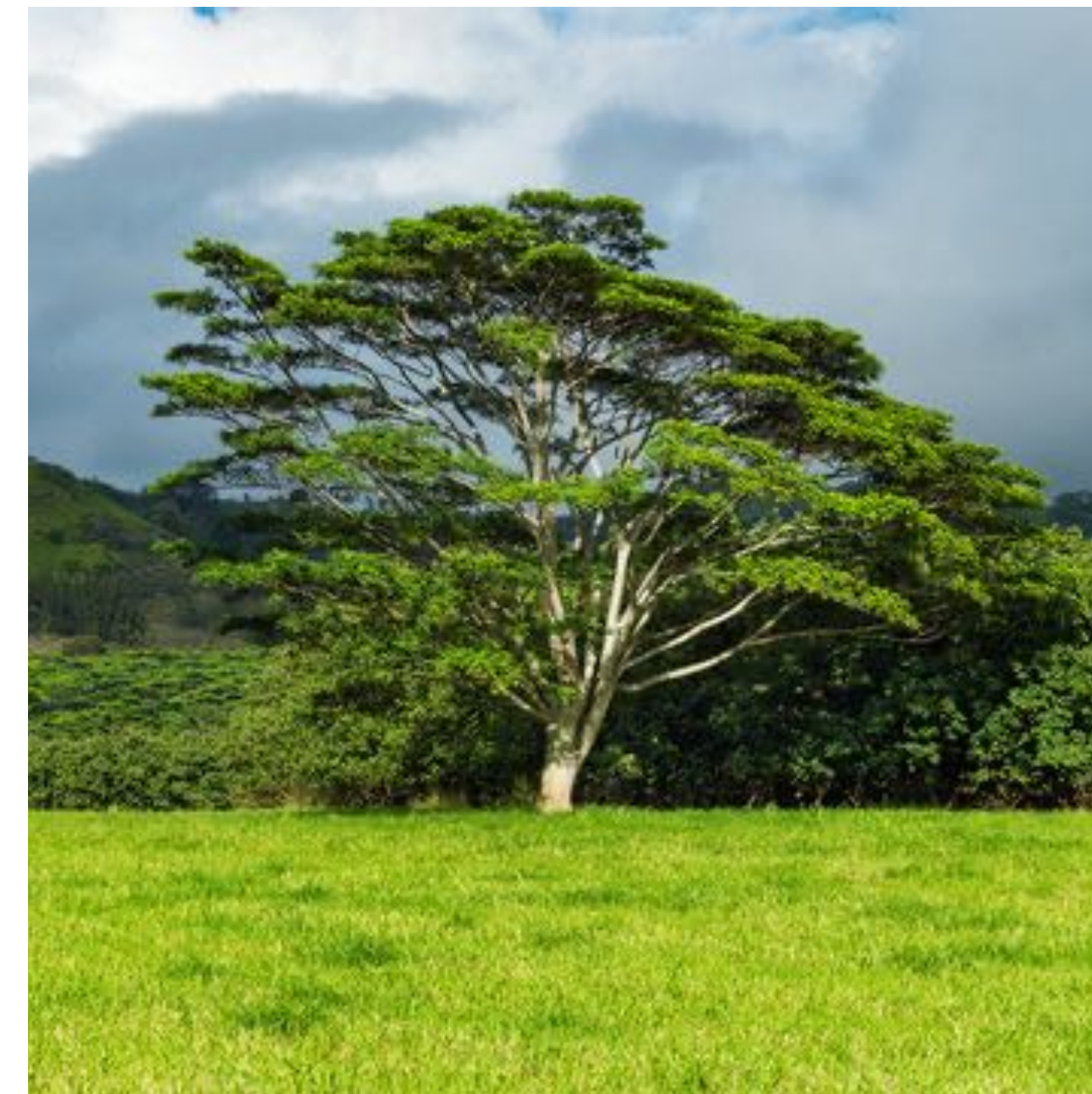
**U.C. DAVIS
ACACIA GROVE**



SAN DIEGO ZOO



**SAN DIEGO
SAFARI PARK**



HAWAII



**CUYAMACA COLLEGE
WATER CONSERVATION
GARDEN**

PLANT PREFERENCES

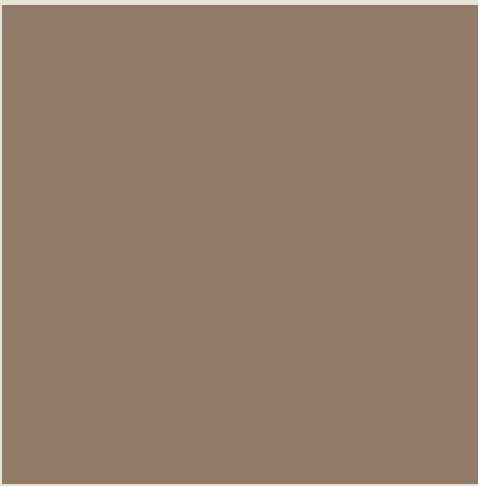
How often should you apply water? Look at the tree canopy. When the canopy of the tree starts to thin out, it's time to irrigate. Arid-climate trees tell you when to water when their canopies begin to thin out.



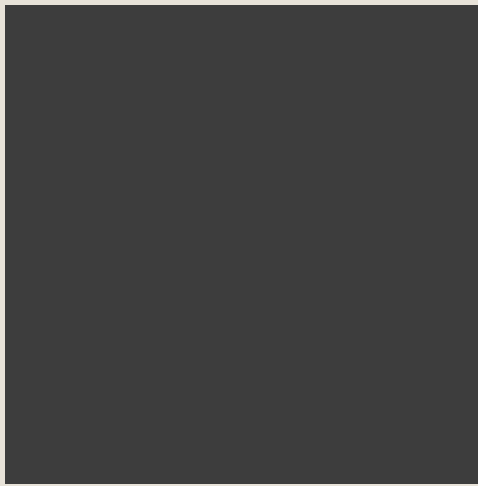
Needs full sunlight and grows in nearly any type of soil, including sand, clay, or soil that is highly alkaline or acidic. Although acacia prefers well-drained soil, it tolerates muddy soil for short periods of time.



Acacia is basically a plant-it-and-forget-it type of tree.



Acacia may need occasional pruning during the dry months. Avoid pruning leafy, green areas and trim only dead growth.



They usually live only 20 to 30 years.



Acacia bloom in late January to early Spring. It is a dicot.



They reproduce using seed pods, which are transported by birds, insects, and small mammals. They cannot self-fertilize.

PLANT USES

Historically: Aborigines used many parts of acacias for food. Roots of young trees were roasted. Gum was collected and chewed or used as an adhesive. Notches were often cut in the trunk and branches to cause the exudation of gum, and sap. Sap was used to make a sweet drink. It is thought that tannin was used to stupefy fish, seed for food and gum. Strips of young bark were used as a binding material and making bags, fishing nets, sandals and pubic tassels. The wood was used for spear shafts, axe handles, digging sticks, boomerangs, fire sticks and fire wood. From the wood grubs and honey ants were extracted.



**GUM ARABIC
FROM SAP**



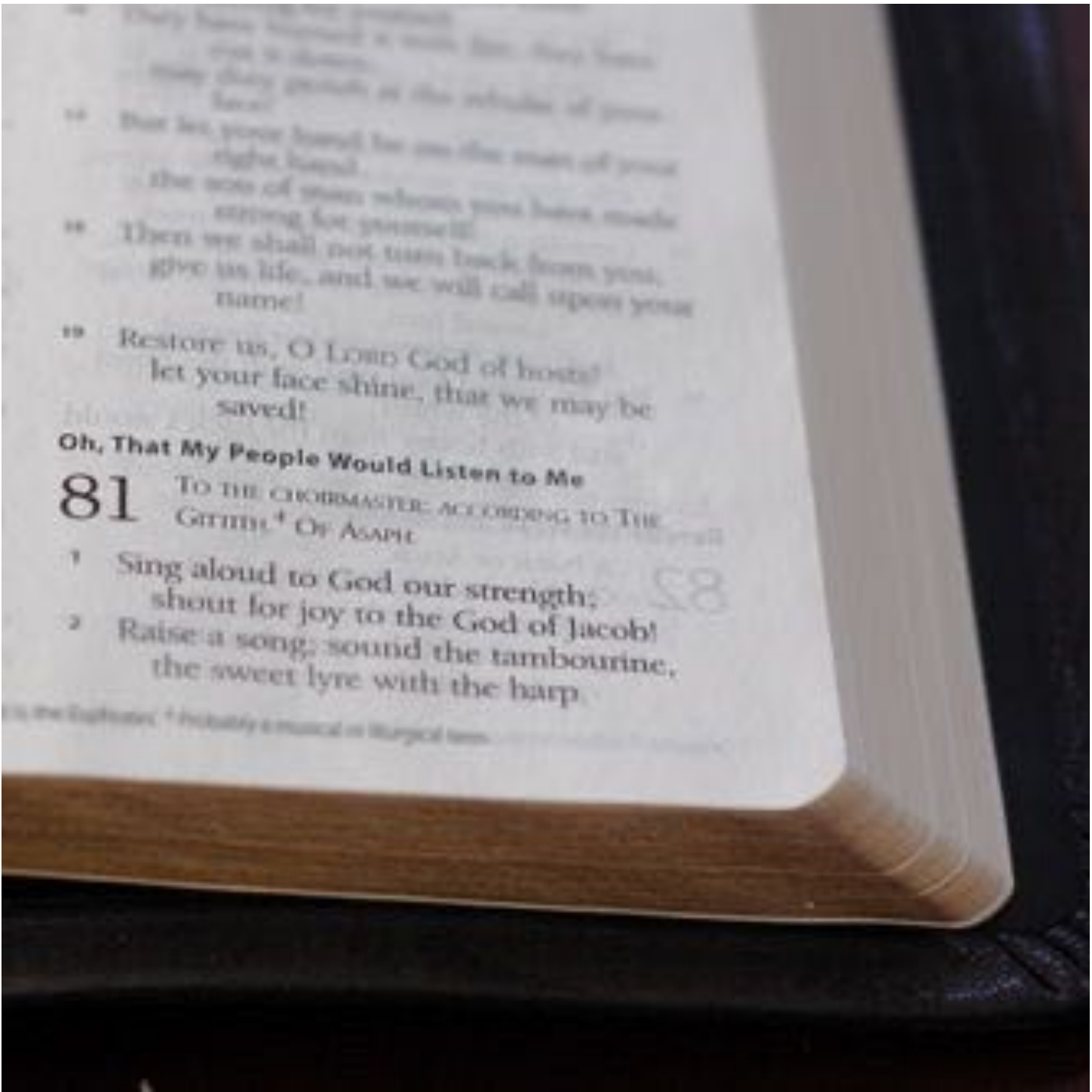
**FLOORING, FURNITURE,
GUITARS, SURFBOARDS**



**BIODIESEL IN SUDAN
FROM SEEDS**



**PERFUME &
INCENSE**



**PULP WOOD
(THIN PAPER)
*A. mangium***



**FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS IN
ITALY, RUSSIA, ETC ON
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
DAY (MARCH 8)**

PESTS & DISEASES

According to the IPM website, there are several pests and diseases.

Invertebrates

- [Armored scales](#)
 - California red scale
 - Greedy scale
 - Oleander scale
 - San Jose scale
- [Cottony cushion scale](#)
- [Foliage-feeding caterpillars](#)
 - Omnivorous looper
 - [Orange tortrix](#)
- [Fuller rose beetle](#)
- [Glassy-winged sharpshooter](#)
- [Lead cable borer](#)
- [Leafhoppers](#)
- [Psyllids](#)
 - Acacia psyllid
- [Spittlebugs](#)
- [Whiteflies](#)
 - [Giant whitefly](#)

Diseases

- [Collar, root, and crown rots](#)
- [Wood decay](#)

Environmental disorders

- [Frost](#)
- [Leaf burn or scorch](#)
- [Mineral deficiencies](#)
- [Nutrient and mineral excesses](#)
- [Poor water management](#)

BEST OPTIONS TO GROW IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY



Acacia podalyriifolia

Pearl Acacia. Fast growing, large evergreen shrub or small tree. Easy to find in local tree nurseries.



Acacia stenophylla

Shoestring Acacia. Drought tolerant, quick growing large tree (30 feet tall by 20 feet wide). Easy to find.



Acacia aneura

Mulga. Evergreen tree with yellow blooms. Drought tolerant, slow growing, may reach 50 feet tall.

COLD HARDY OPTIONS TO GROW IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY



Acacia baileyana
‘Winter Flame’

Also known as golden
mimosa: zones 4-8.



Acacia
angustissima

Prairie Acacia, also known
as fern acacia or whiteball
acacia: zones 6-10

WORST OPTIONS TO GROW IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY



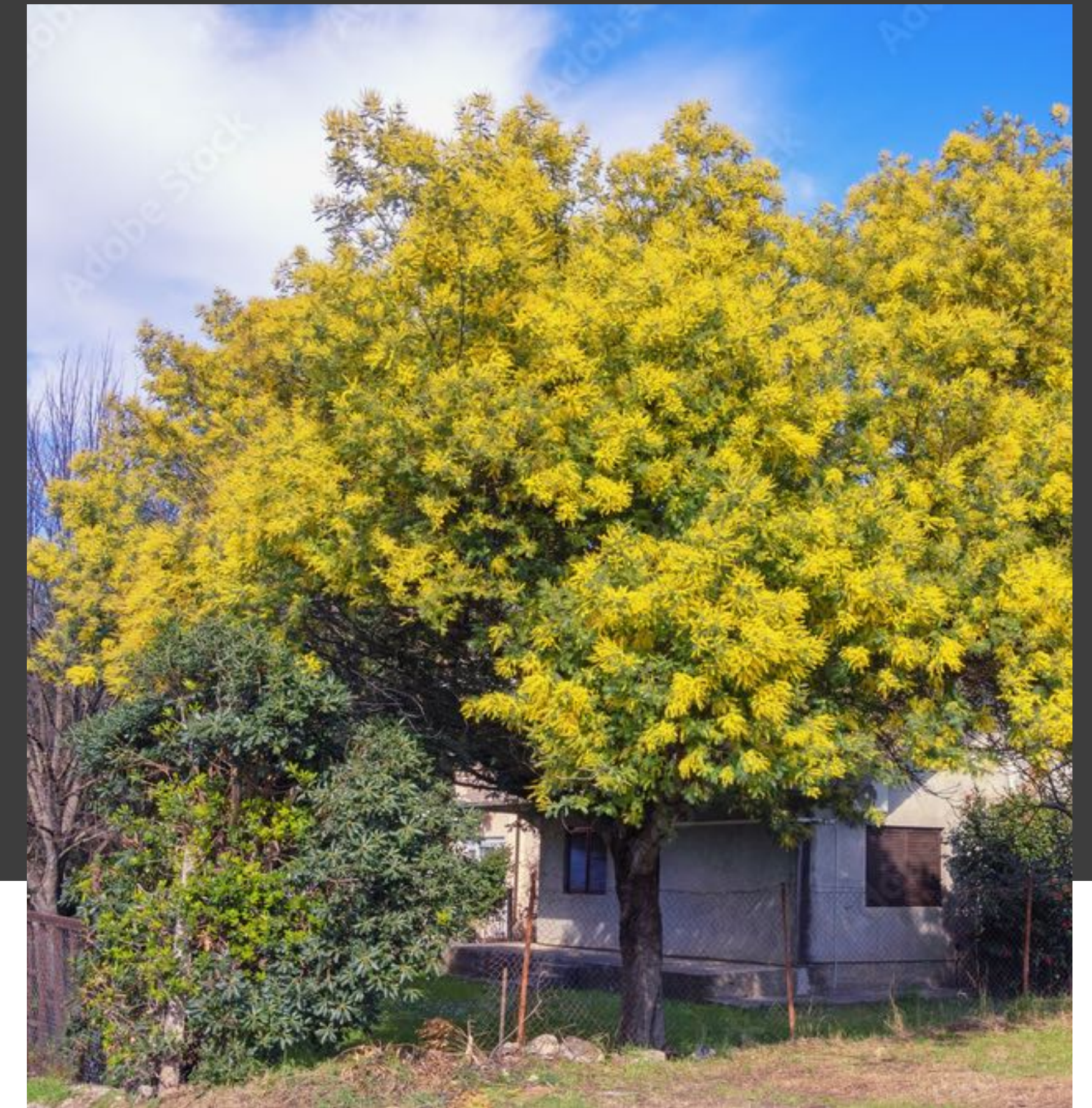
***Acacia
melanooxylon***

Blackwood Acacia. Invasive, dense, and aggressive roots. Very tall and wide tree.



***Acacia
redolens***

Desert Carpet or Low Boy. Popular with HOAs in the 1980s-1990s. Can cause allergy symptoms.



***Acacia
dealbata***

Silver Wattle. Invasive to California. Can cause hay fever and allergy symptoms.

ACACIA ROOTS

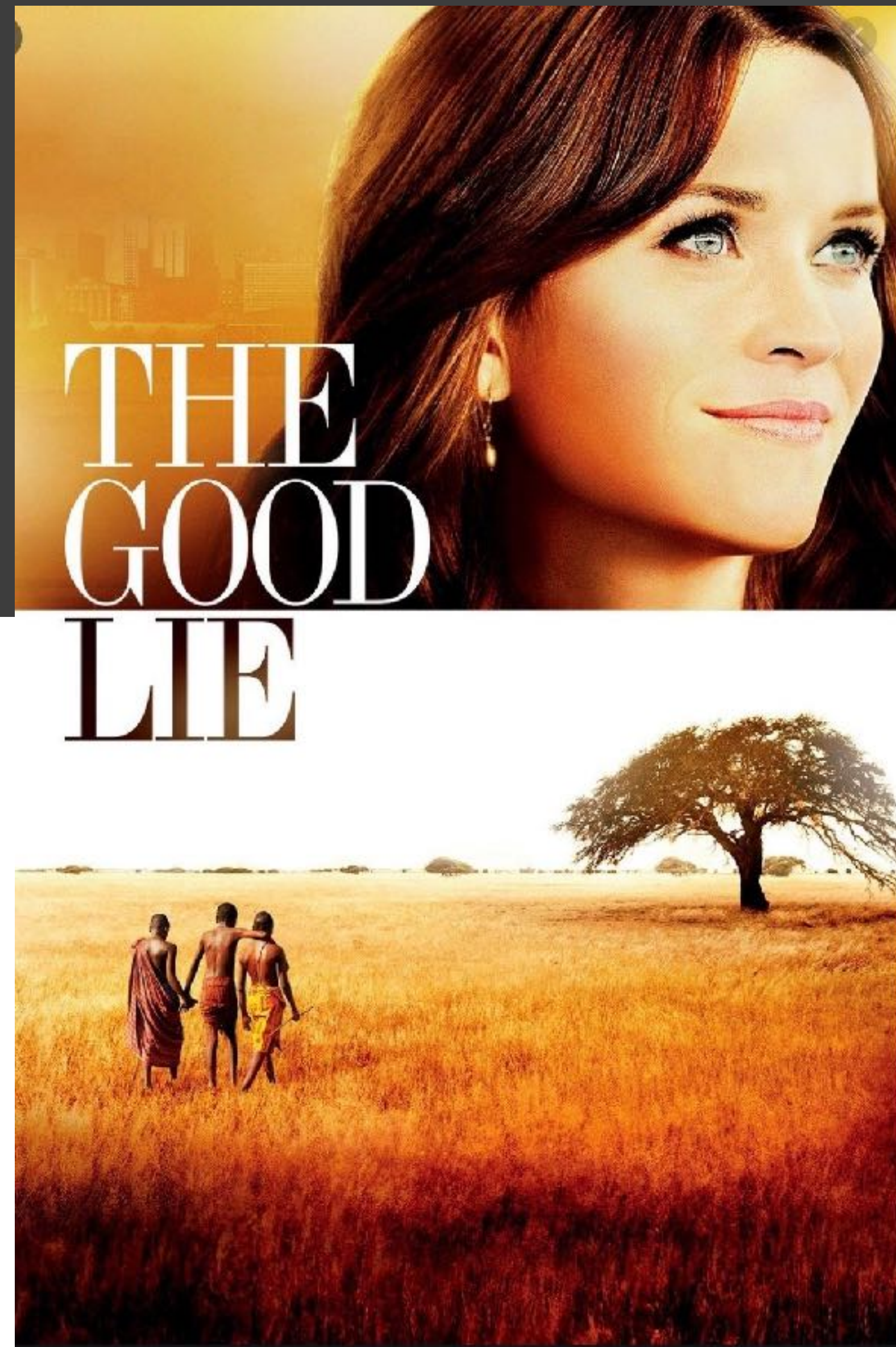




BONSAI

Acacia trees are fairly popular in the bonsai world.

ACACIA TREES IN MOVIES





GIRAFFES

When a giraffe starts chewing acacia leaves, the injured tree emits a distress signal using ethylene gas. Neighboring acacia trees pick up on this and begin pumping tannins into their leaves. When consumed in large quantities, these tannins can sicken or even kill giraffes.

But the system certainly isn't foolproof: since giraffes have evolved with acacia trees, they know to eat facing the wind so that the warning gas won't reach the trees ahead. Absent wind, they'll simply travel beyond the reach of ethylene gas (around 100 yards) to avoid the tannins that way.

THE END

PAINTING BY:
VAN GOGH

