

Western Honey Mesquite

Scientific name: *Prosopis glandulosa v. Torr.*

Growth habit: Shrub (multi-stemmed) to 15 feet, tree (single-stemmed) to 40 feet

Light preference: Full sun

Soil preference: Dry

Fruit: Capsule

Plant associates: Because of its wide range and occurrence in various plant communities, honey mesquite has numerous associates in different habitats. In the washes of desert landscapes it is associated with desert willow, palo verde, Fremont cottonwood and saltcedar. In riparian honey mesquite habitat known as bosques, pure stands of Western honey mesquite can grow to 40 feet or more.



Photo courtesy Bro. Alfred Brousseau at USDA-NRSC Plants Database

Notes: Found in drainage-ways of Sonoran and Mojave deserts where the plant can grow to forty feet. A legume, W. honey mesquite has nitrogen-fixing nodes on its roots. In the wild, the plant is found on many soil types including sandy loam, calcareous silt loam, gravelly sand loam, and others. Serves as nesting site and source of seeds to several birds. Important cover plant that grows sparsely in the wild.

Value to *Lucy's Warbler*: Nests in natural cavities of mesquite and depends on riparian mesquite habitat during breeding season

Native range: AZ, CA, NV, NM, TX, UT

