

Mesquite Tree Care Guide (Prosopis spp.) - 29 Figs Nursery

Mesquite Tree Care (Prosopis spp.)

Hardy, Fast-Growing, and Full of Character

Quick Facts

- Sunlight: Full sun (8+ hrs/day)
- Hardiness Zones: 6-11
- Drought Tolerant: Excellent
- Fruit Bearing: 3-5 years (pods used for flour or forage)
- Size: 10-20 ft in pots, 20-40 ft in ground

In-Ground Planting

- Soil: Tolerates poor, sandy, rocky, or alkaline soils. Must be well-drained.
- Watering: Deep water weekly first year. Afterward, monthly or less depending on rainfall.
- Spacing: 20-30 feet from structures due to spreading canopy and roots.
- Fertilizing: None needed in most cases. Light compost in spring if desired.
- Pruning: Prune in winter to shape and remove lower limbs or suckers.

Container Growing

- Pot Size: 20+ gallon pot minimum. Select dwarf or thornless varieties if possible.
- Soil Mix: Cactus mix or sandy soil blend with perlite.
- Watering: Deep water every 10-14 days. Allow soil to fully dry between.
- Winter: Hardy but shelter young trees in hard frost areas.
- Fertilizing: Rarely needed. Diluted cactus fertilizer in spring if desired.
- Repotting: Every 3 years. Roots can grow deep and quickly.

Pro Tips

- Mesquites fix nitrogen, improving soil health for surrounding plants.
- Flowers attract bees and pollinators; pods feed wildlife.
- Avoid planting over paved surfaces-roots may cause lifting.
- Excellent windbreak or shade tree for desert landscapes.

29 Figs Nursery - Growing Desert Delicious

Twentynine Palms, California