



**XERISCAPE**

*Nature's Choice of Landscape*

## *Pithecellobium flexicaule* Texas Ebony

**T**exas ebony is native to the lowland regions of the Gulf of Mexico from southern Texas to northeastern Mexico. The highly ornamental, glossy, dark green foliage is its most striking feature. This popular small to medium tree has flexible, zigzagged branches, and fragrant catkin-like spring flowers. The dense canopy is evergreen in lower desert regions.

Texas ebony is slow-growing, reaching 25 feet tall and 20 feet wide. This versatile tree is valued for both its specimen quality in patios and gardens, or as a screen or barrier plant. The thorns provide security where needed. When used for patios and gardens, its thorns must be taken into account in its placement. With careful pruning, the canopy can be raised to form a patio tree.

Its fragrant cream-colored flowers appear in spring and are followed by brown, woody pods 4 to 6 inches long that can remain on the tree for up to a year. These pods create some ground litter, but are easily picked up and can be used in dry flower arrangements for unique texture and durability.

This sun-loving tree prefers well-drained soils, deep, infrequent waterings, and is very drought tolerant. It should be planted only in areas where the winter temperatures do not dip below 15° F, as tip burn and possible die back can occur.



*Pithecellobium flexicaule*



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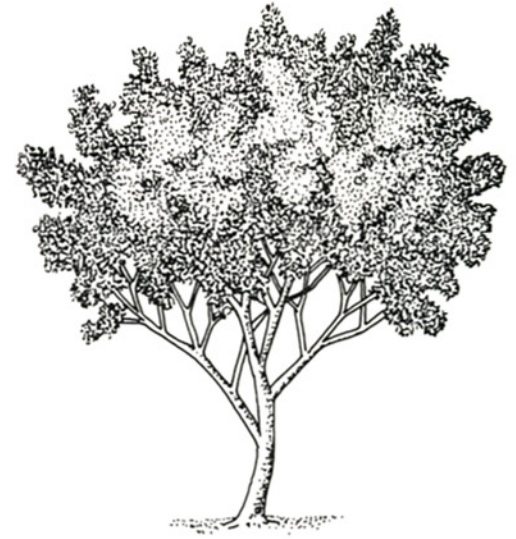


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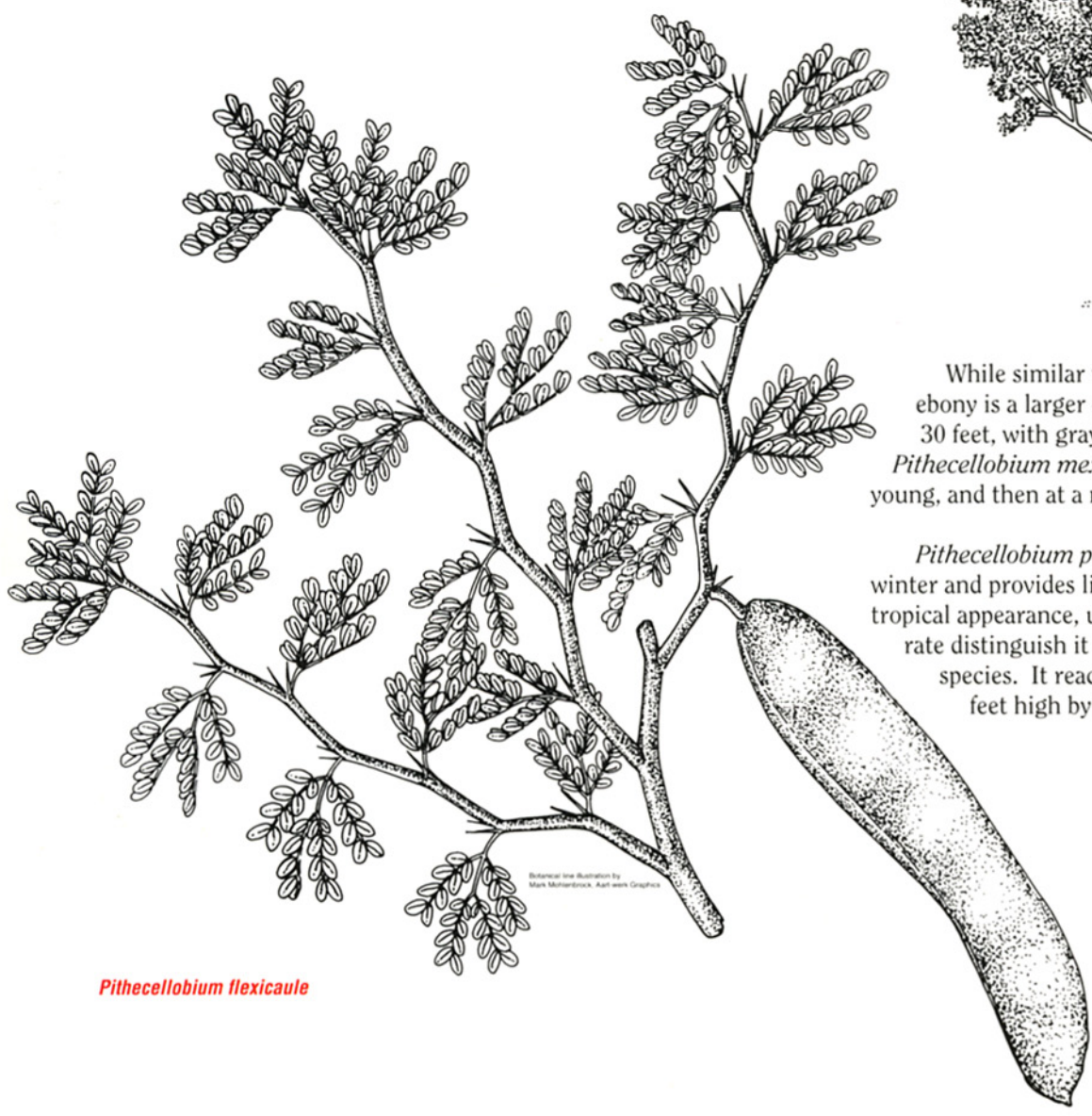
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Two other interesting species of pithecellobium that are becoming more widely available are Mexican ebony (*Pithecellobium mexicanum*) and ape's earring (*P. pallens*).



While similar to Texas ebony, Mexican ebony is a larger deciduous tree, growing to 30 feet, with gray-green foliage. *Pithecellobium mexicanum* grows quickly while young, and then at a moderate rate as it matures.

*Pithecellobium pallens* is semi-deciduous in winter and provides light shade in summer. The tropical appearance, upright form, and fast growth rate distinguish it from other pithecellobium species. It reaches a maximum size of 30 feet high by 25 feet wide.



*Pithecellobium flexicaule*

**CHARACTERISTICS**

Botanical Name Common Name	Size Ht. x W.	Evergreen	Flower Season	Flower Color	Foliage Texture	Foliage Color	Hardiness (degrees F)	Growth Rate	Litter	Thorns	Exposure
<i>Pithecellobium flexicaule</i> Texas Ebony	25' x 20'	Yes	Spring	Cream	Fine	Dark Green	10	Slow	Mod.	Yes	Sun