

## Desert Ironwood

*Olneya tesota*



- Elevation- below 2500 feet
- Terrain- grows in washes and valleys of the Sonoran desert
- Symbiotic relationships- provides food and shelter for animals. As it grows it changes the environment around it creating a micro-habitat. It's canopy shades the ground underneath and it's nutrient rich leaves fertilize the soil around it when they fall.
- Edible- produces edible beans that taste like peanuts when cooked but they are mildly toxic and should not be eaten in large quantities. The flowers are also edible.
- Its wood is very hard and heavy, denser than water so it sinks. One popular use is for knife handles. It also makes excellent firewood. The flowers can be used as medicine.