
PLEASE PROTECT ME

I am a unique specimen tree in your area. Even though I may look indestructible, I am a very fragile tree. In order to ensure my survival, please protect me by following these suggestions:

1. Do not injure my trunk with any object or graffiti.
2. Keep all machines and weed whips away.
3. Do not pull or hang from my branches "Ouch!! It Hurts".
4. Do not over water me.
5. I respond well to a good nutrient supply with an even N.P.K. balance and supplemented trace elements



The Department of Recreation and Parks maintains and protects hundreds of heritage trees. Heritage trees are individual trees of any size or species that are specifically designated as heritage because of their historical, commemorative, or horticultural significance. Preserving these treasures is important for future generations to admire. For further information, please contact the Department of Recreation and Parks at the address below.



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
General Manager
Manuel A. Mollinedo

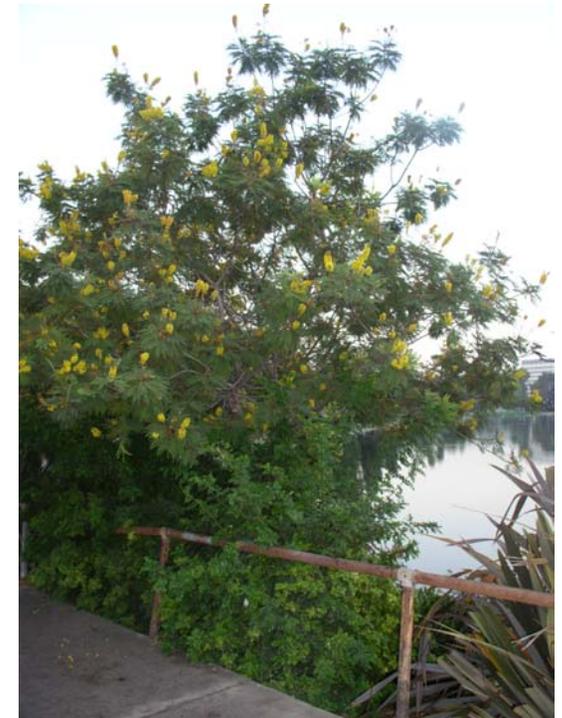
Forestry Division
3900 W. Chevy Chase Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Phone: (213) 485-4826
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Website: www.laparks.org



AFRICAN WATTLE

HERITAGE TREE



Echo Park
1632 Bellevue Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Tel: (213) 250-3578



AFRICAN WATTLE

Peltophorum africanum

Hello!!! Are you enjoying your visit to Echo Park Lake? Did you come here to jog, for a picnic, to feed the ducks, or to view the lotus



flowers? I want to take this time to introduce myself and to inform you of another great attraction of Echo Park.

Seven individual planted on the north-west corner are among a rare species of tree not commonly found in the City of Los Angeles. The people who study plants gave me the name *Peltophorum africanum*. For you it might be easier to remember the name African wattle. I was



originally discovered in the continent of Africa many years ago. In Africa, they use my wood to make furniture. At Echo Park, I was planted several years ago to provide beauty, color, and shade to the public. Please

feel free to come over and visit me mainly during spring and summer. When temperatures become cold in the winter, I drop off my leaf and I go to sleep until spring. Inform your family and friends of my presence. Tell them to come over to admire my splendor and beauty.

FLOWER

During spring and summer months, I put up a magnificent and colorful flower display. The color of my flowers are bright yellow. In order to enhance my



floral display, I produce my flowers at the end of my branches. Each flower has five crinkle petals.

Individual flowers are placed together in a group and they form a structure called an "Inflorescence". The inflorescences are held up high by a stalk. If you look closely you will notice that the stalks are covered with soft pubescence. The pubescence acquire a coppery or rusty coloration. My flowers have no fragrance. I depend on the bright colors of my flowers to attract my main pollinator which are bees. Bees cannot resist the rich



pollen and sweet nectar that I produce in my flowers. I depend on bees to carry out the pollination of my flowers in order for me to produce fruit and seeds.

LEAVES

In order to gather sunlight, I produce many leaves. My leaves are divided into many pairs of small leaflets. To



many people, my leaves have a fern-like appearance. The leaves are held by a stalk which, in younger braches,

may have the same rusty color pubescence as the flower spike. The leaves that I produce provide a relief from the scorching heat of the sun for people and other animals during the summer months. Also, when my leaves are at a young stage, they are fed to and eaten by livestock. In addition to livestock, I also serve as a valuable food source for gazelles, zebras, and many other non-domesticated animals from Africa. For humans, my leaves have been used to treat stomach aches and to clean intestinal parasites.

FRUIT

After flowering I produce a fruit. My fruit is a dry, flat, seed pod. At maturity the color of pod can



range in color from dark brown to black. An important feature of my seed pod is that it tapers at both ends. Some of my seed pods may remain hanging from my branches for several years. Inside the pods I produce several seeds. The seed pods are also an important source of food for many animals.