

# *Caesalpinia granadillo*: Bridalveil Tree<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

Bridalveil Tree makes a wonderful shade tree, the 35-foot-high tree clothed with finely textured, pinnately compound, evergreen leaves. In summer and fall, Bridalveil Tree is decorated with showy yellow blossoms. The bark is also quite striking, peeling off in thin strips showing an unusual green and grey mottling. The tree is usually found growing with several trunks originating from the lower four feet of the tree. This feature, along with the unusual bark traits, make this a highly desirable tree for planting in almost any landscape.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Caesalpinia granadillo*

**Pronunciation:** sez-al-PIN-ee-uh gran-uh-DILL-oh

**Common name(s):** Bridalveil Tree

**Family:** *Leguminosae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** sidewalk cutout (tree pit); specimen; street without sidewalk; parking lot island < 100 sq ft; parking lot island 100-200 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; tree lawn 3-4 feet wide; tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; shade; Bonsai; highway median; container or planter; trained as a standard

**Availability:** not native to North America

## Description

**Height:** 30 to 35 feet

**Spread:** 25 to 35 feet

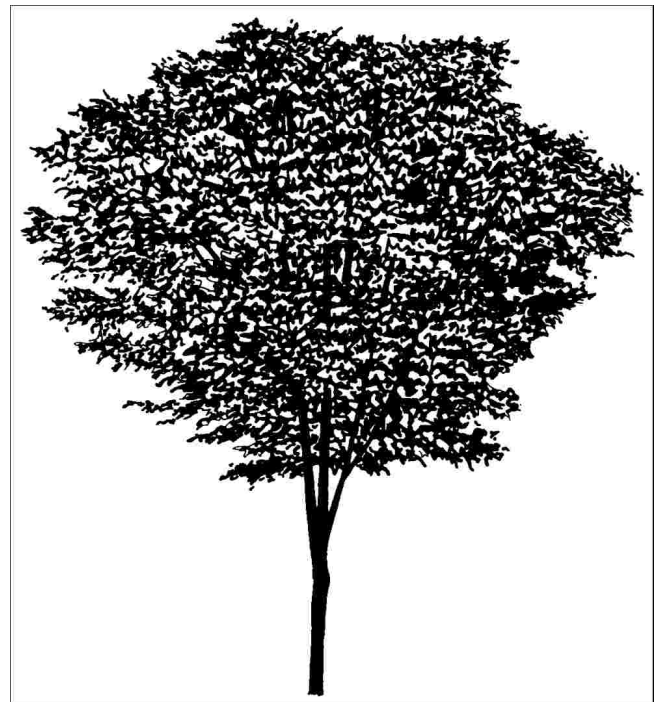


Figure 1. Middle-aged *Caesalpinia granadillo*: Bridalveil Tree

**Crown uniformity:** irregular

**Crown shape:** vase

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** fine

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** bipinnately compound

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Figure 2. Range

**Leaf margin:** entire  
**Leaf shape:** obovate  
**Leaf venation:** pinnate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen  
**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** yellow  
**Flower characteristics:** showy

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** pod or pod-like  
**Fruit length:** unknown  
**Fruit covering:** dry or hard  
**Fruit color:** unknown  
**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; not showy;  
fruit/leaves not a litter problem

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches don't droop; very showy;  
typically multi-trunked; thorns  
**Pruning requirement:** needed for strong structure  
**Breakage:** resistant  
**Current year twig color:** green  
**Current year twig thickness:** thin  
**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

### Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun  
**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic;  
well-drained  
**Drought tolerance:** moderate  
**Aerosol salt tolerance:** low

### Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** yes  
**Outstanding tree:** yes  
**Invasive potential:** little invasive potential  
**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown  
**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** unknown  
**Pest resistance:** free of serious pests and diseases

## Use and Management

Not commonly available in nurseries, Bridalveil Tree may increase in popularity once people discover its outstanding characteristics. The fine-textured foliage combines with an upright-vase shape to form a canopy tree with few equals. It is well suited for a residence, staying small enough to keep it from overtaking a property. It can be planted on 25 foot centers along a road, or placed in a parking lot buffer strip to create a nice canopy of soft foliage.

Bridalveil Tree should be grown in full sun on well-drained soil. The tree is moderately drought-tolerant. Early pruning is needed to prevent bark from pinching or becoming embedded in the crotches.

Propagation is by seed.

## Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.