



ACACIA SALICINA

Strong Root Structure

The *Acacia salicina*, also known as the Willow acacia, is very common throughout the Southwest. Though it is not a native tree, the *Acacia salicina* is extremely drought tolerant. However, if grown in poorly drained soils or with frequent, shallow watering the *Acacia salicina* can grow too quickly and develop a poor root structure. Growing quickly creates a wide, thick canopy and results in higher risk of storm damage. We recommend watering all trees wide and deep to help develop a stable root structure.

Proper Crown Thinning

Along with good water management, the *Acacia salicina* needs proper crown thinning to ^{Agave} prevent potential wind loss or damage from storm events. These trees from the evergreen family often have codominant limbs which are limbs of about equal size growing from the same position on a trunk (also referred to as Shigo). This situation often



Before Pruning



After Pruning

results in included bark which leads to weak unions at the trunk and branch failure. The goal is to encourage one of the limbs to be the main leader.

A Balanced Canopy

*Acacia salicina*s require foliage to be kept as long as possible; often at least a year. This may vary tree to tree depending on how thick the trunk has become. When the tree is ready to be pruned it is best to only prune away the bottom third of the foliage. When pruning the upper two thirds, it is always good to keep uniform branch distribution to ensure structural balance. If you are not sure how to properly prune your *Acacia salicina* we strongly suggest hiring a professional arborist.



Source: Shigo, Dr. Alex. Pruning Trees. Snohomish, WA: Shigo and Trees Associates LLC, 1990.

