



# *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 (Fig. 1). 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:** Bonsai; container or above-ground planter; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; trainable as a standard; shade tree; specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

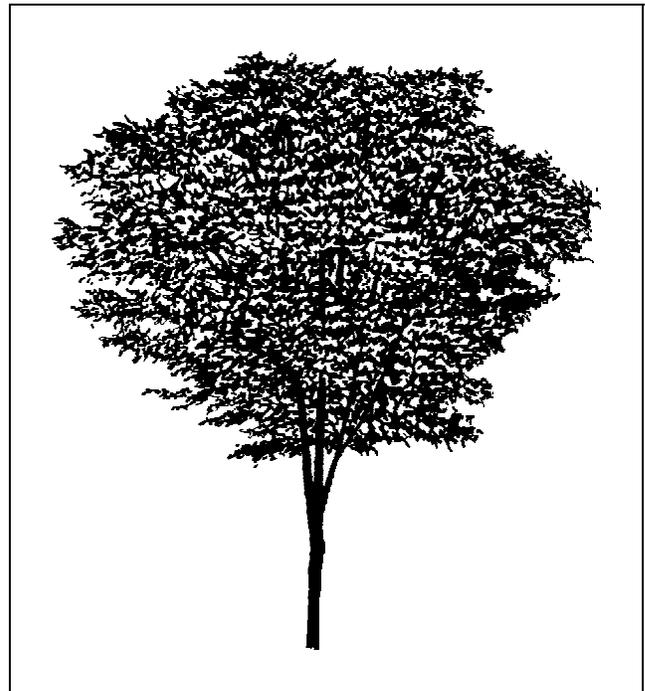


Figure 1. Middle-aged Bridalveil Tree.

## DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 30 to 35 feet

**Spread:** 25 to 35 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

**Crown shape:** vase shape

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** medium

**Texture:** fine

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

### Foliage

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

### Flower

**Flower color:** yellow  
**Flower characteristics:** fall flowering; showy; summer flowering

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** pod  
**Fruit covering:** dry or hard  
**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** bark is thin and easily damaged from mechanical impact; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; grow mostly upright and will not droop; tree wants to grow with several trunks but can be trained to grow with a single trunk; very showy trunk; no thorns  
**Pruning requirement:** requires pruning to develop strong structure  
**Breakage:** resistant  
**Current year twig color:** green  
**Current year twig thickness:** thin

### Culture

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

## Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Pest resistance:** no pests are normally seen on the tree

## 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.