



Tree Species No. TTS7

Caragana arborescens, Family Leguminosae

Caragana arborescens is a hardy and vigorous shrubby tree that can grow on even the most exposed sites. This makes it an important windbreak and erosion control species in inhospitable areas.

Synonyms: *Caragana caragana*, *Robinia caragana*.

Common names: Siberian peashrub, pea tree, caragana, yellow acacia.

Distribution: Native to Siberia it extends into southern Russia and China. It has also been introduced to the United States.

Ecology

Temperature: It prefers a sunny situation and can withstand temperatures down to about -30°C. It prefers a continental climate with long hot summers and cold fairly dry winters. It does not grow well in areas that do not have very cold winters.

Soil type: Will grow on most soil types even poor and alkaline soils.

Botany

Height: 4.5-6m but may reach 7m.

Flowers: Pea-like, yellow.

Fruit: The amber pods are 2.54-5.08cm and become brown when ripe. Each pod has approximately 6 reddish brown spherical seeds that are 2.5-4mm diameter.

Uses

Main: It is commonly grown as deer browse and the seeds are a good poultry feed. It is very hardy and therefore makes an excellent hedge or windbreak. It is a good erosion control species.

Other: It produces a lentil-size edible seed that can be used in all the ways that lentils are used.

Cultural instructions

Seeds: There are approximately 18000-19000 seeds per pound. The seeds can be removed by allowing the pods to dry and pop open, this should be done in an area that is free of pests and diseases. The seeds can also be removed by sifting, beating or fanning. Sow directly into the field or in nurseries, broadcast or in rows.

Seed storage: Store the seeds in containers at low temperatures or seeds can maintain viability for up to 5 years if stored dry at room temperatures.

Pre-treatment: Pretreat the seeds by placing in layers of moist sand that has a moisture content of 5-10% for 15 days at 5°C, or place in saturated sand or perlite for 12 days at 4.44°C.

Germination: 30-50%.

Nursery: The seeds should be transplanted once they are greater than 30 cm in height.

Spacing: 80-160 seeds per square metre.

Management: Plant a cover crop, such as oats, in between rows during the winter to provide winter protection.

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