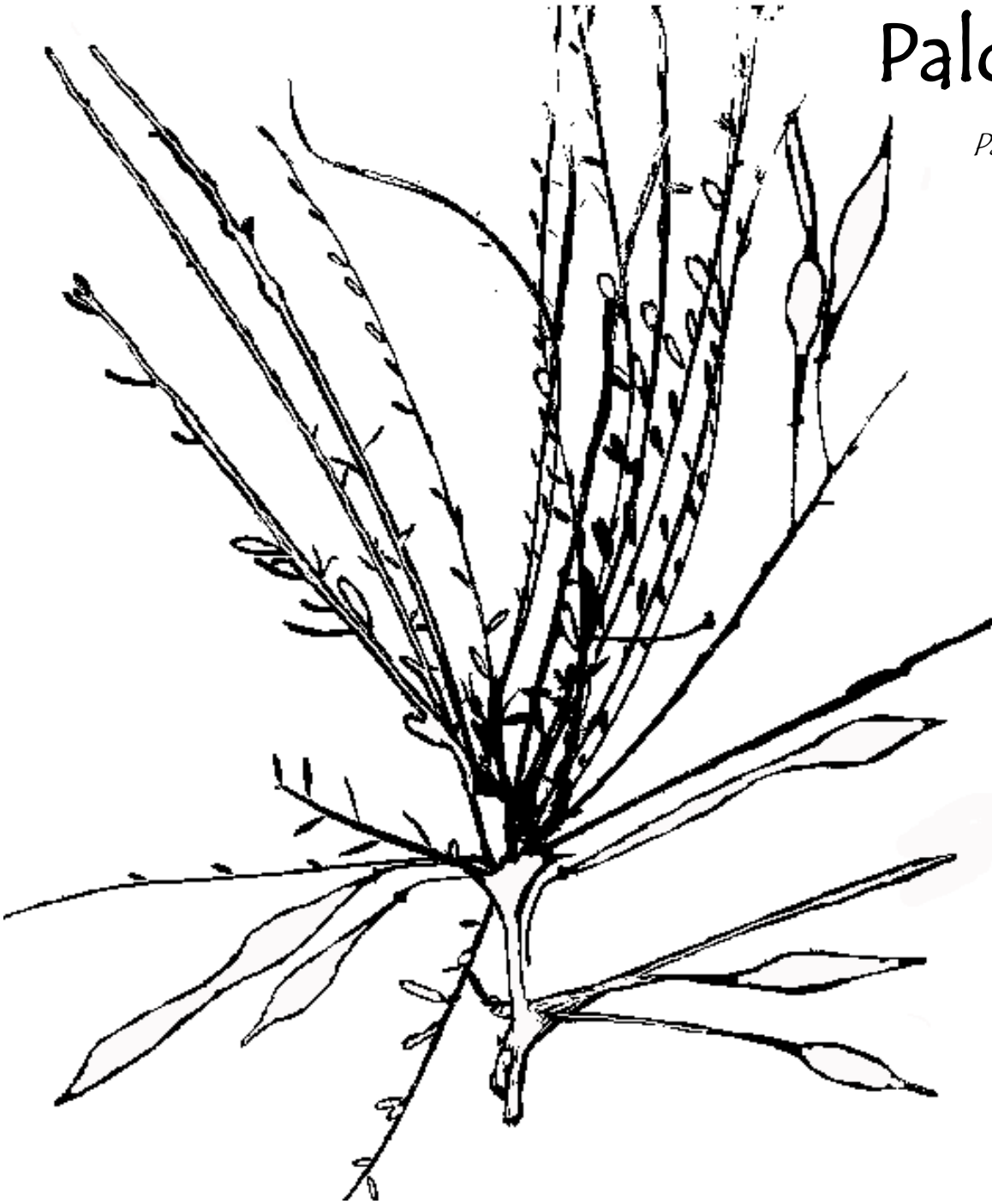


Palo verde

Parkinsonia



State tree of ARIZONA

"Palo verde" means "green branch." The trees have thin green bark on their trunks and branches. During dry times, which may be most of the year, the tree will shed its delicate leaves to conserve moisture. The plant can continue to photosynthesize through the chlorophyll in its trunk and branches. Arizona's palo verde is a true desert dweller, and it frequently grows in the company of the saguaro cactus, which is Arizona's state flower. The palo verde often serves as a "nurse plant" for saguaro cacti -- the cactus seedlings require a shaded, moist environment in their first few years of growth. The palo verde is an attractive small tree increasingly used as a street tree in the desert.

Source: U.S. Forest Service