



Delta Discovery

Connecting Classrooms to Nature at the
Nueces Delta Preserve

Spotlight on a Species

Fact sheets discussing species found on the Nueces Delta Preserve

Honey Mesquite



Fast Facts:

Scientific name:

Prosopis glandulosa

Common names: ***honey mesquite, mesquite, prairie mesquite***

Habitat: ***along water ways, canyons, in grasslands***

Fun fact: ***resistant to termites***

Honey mesquite is a shrub that grows over 1/3 of the state of Texas as well as in seven other states. Mesquite is part of the legume family which means that its root fix nitrogen in the soil. Since this shrub grows well in disturbed areas (such as overgrazed grasslands) it is often used in restoration projects. It was once believed that mesquite's range throughout the state increased with cattle movement, but documentation has shown that the range has not changed but the density is increasing. This is due to control of grassland fires, grazing by cattle and eradication of the prairie dog.

Honey mesquite provides an important source of nectar for butterflies and bees. Livestock, deer, javelina (collared peccary), and jackrabbits all feed on the vegetation and seed pods, although overconsumption can result in death. Humans use mesquite for furniture, wood, fuel, and food. The seed pod of the mesquite tree can be ground into flour which can be used by people who have allergies to traditional wheat flour.



Sources for Further Reading:

<http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/science/ubiquitous-mesquite>

<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/st-plains/nature/images/mesquite.html>

<http://www.fs.fed.us/global/iitf/pdf/shrubs/Prosopis%20glandulosa%20.pdf>

<http://www.flordemayoarts.com/pages/mesquite-recipes.html>

http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/Display_Onetree.aspx?tid=68