






## What prickly bush is that?

	<b>Prickly Acacia</b> ( <i>Vachellia nilotica</i> )	<b>Mesquite</b> ( <i>Prosopis spp.</i> )	<b>Parkinsonia</b> ( <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> )	<b>Mimosa bush</b> ( <i>Acacia farnesiana</i> )	<b>Mimosa</b> ( <i>Mimosa pigra</i> )
<b>Photo</b>					
<b>Pod shape</b>	Up to 23cm, long with constrictions between seeds	Up to 20cm long, slight constrictions between seeds; straight or slightly curved	Up to 10cm long, long thin constrictions between seeds; straight	Cigar-shaped, up to 6cm long and slightly curved	3-8cm long, one seeded, bristled segments which fall away from the pod leaving a skeletal outline
<b>Flowers</b>	Ball-shaped, golden yellow, about 1cm across	Greenish-cream flower spike 5-8cm long and cylindrical in shape	5 petals mainly yellow except one which has an orange spot	Ball-shaped, golden yellow, about 1 cm across	Round, fluffy, pink or mauve balls, 1-2cm across
<b>Pod colour, hairs</b>	Blue-grey, fine hairs	Straw coloured, sometimes purple; no hairs	Straw coloured pod; no hairs	Brown to black; no hairs	Brown when mature; covered in dense bristles
<b>Leaves</b>	Leaves fernlike; 4 to 10 pairs of leaves, often overlapping	Leaves fernlike; 1 to 3 pairs of leaves, often with a gap between leaves	Leaves with long flattened leaf stalk with tiny oblong leaflets along each side	Leaves fernlike; 2 to 4 pairs of leaves with a gap between leaves	Central leaf stalk is prickly, 20-25cm long. Each leaf contains about 15 opposite segments 5cm long
<b>Leaflets</b>	10 to 25 pairs or leaflets	10 to 14 pairs or leaflets	-	8 to 18 pairs of leaflets	Leaf segments are divided into pairs or leaflets which fold when touched.
<b>Tree shape</b>	Spreading tree to 10m tall	Variable shape, usually a spreading tree to 15m tall	Small tree or shrub usually to 5m tall	Usually rounded shrub to 3m tall	Multi-branched shrub to 5-6m
<b>Bark</b>	Bark on saplings has tinge of orange and/or green. Mature trees have dark rough bark	Bark rough, grey; smooth dark red or green on small branches	Bark smooth and green, straw coloured and lightly textured at base of older trees	Bark grey with prominent white spots	Stems are green at first, becoming woody, initially covered with thick hairs
<b>Branch shape</b>	Branches more or less straight	Branches zigzag shaped	Branches slightly zigzagged	Branches zigzag shaped	Branches more or less straight