

Sandpaper Tree, Anacua

Ehretia anacua



Once you feel the leaves on an Anacua, you'll know why they call it "Sandpaper Tree". It's a stand out with its large black-green oval leaves. White spring blossoms attract bees and butterflies. Like a live oak, it's not a "true evergreen" – new leaves will come every spring – earlier than most oaks. Small fruits are yellow-orange, sweet and eaten by birds and other small wildlife. It will need to be well watered to get established, but then it will be exceedingly drought-tolerant. Anacuas grow well as understory when young, but eventually grow large enough to qualify as canopy trees. The trunk on an old Anacua is unusual – it's like several corky corded trunks all bound together and it has reddish, flaking bark.

Native!

