

# Turning *garaanwa* trees into charcoal and money *is easy...*

Everyone wants charcoal, and it is not cheap. But *garaanwa* (*prosopis*) is everywhere, and is 'free'!  
Making charcoal is simple – and the economic benefits are enormous.  
All it takes is a little knowledge, a charcoal pit or mound, a market, and some time...

## Cut



**Cut** down trees, and dig up all seedlings. All roots, and branches thicker than your thumb can make charcoal, but thicker branches and stumps are better. Longer straighter lengths could also be used or sold as fence posts or construction poles, and maybe for better prices.

## Clear



**Clear.** Tree stumps will quickly grow back, so dealing with them is an important part of the process. Stumps of smaller shrubs must be removed or burnt. Pile and burn all branches, otherwise this leaves a thorny hazard for everyone for years to come.

## Load



**Load.** Some people use charcoal pits and cover them with metal roof sheets. Others build large mounds and cover them with soil. Smaller twigs will be needed to start the 'burn', and put stumps and larger branches in the middle, and light. Keep an eye on it every day.

## Sack



**Sack.** Once the 'burn' is finished, and which be only a few days in small pits or 10-12 days in large mound, the 'burn' is extinguished and it is left for a few days to cool. Then empty the pit or uncover the mound, and load into sacks.

**Sell.** Now you can make money from *garaanwa*. And remember that in the USA, charcoal from *garaanwa* (called *mesquite* there), is expensive because of the pleasant taste it gives to meat cooked over it. Talk about that when agreeing a price.