PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Acacia saligna* (Labill.) H. Wendl.

**GENUS** *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Golden wreath wattle

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Seeds, Gum

The seeds are eaten. They are crushed to flour.

## DESCRIPTION

It is a dense bushy evergreen shrub. It grows 3-10 m tall and spreads to 3-6 m across. The stem is erect but the branches have a graceful weeping habit. They hang downwards. The bark is smooth and red brown. The leaves (phyllodes) are thin and taper towards the tip. They vary a lot in size and shape. They are 8-25 cm long by 1-8 cm wide. They can be curved. They are soft greyish green. The leaves have prominent veins. Five flower heads are carried on a flower stalk. These flowers tend to be towards the ends of branches. The flower heads are balls and are deep yellow or golden. They are 0.5-1 cm across. They heads or balls are made up of 25-75 small flowers. The pods are pea like. They are 5-15 cm long and 0.5-0.6 cm across. The pods are flat and contracted between the seeds. They can be slightly curved and are smooth and brown. The seeds are lined along the pod. The seeds are edible

## HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It occurs in coastal areas of Western Australia. It will grow on calcareous or sandy soils. It prefers light to medium soils. It requires an open sunny position. It is drought resistant and frost tolerant. It can stand some salting. It grows well in subtropical regions. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 125-1,200 m above sea level. It grows below 300 m above sea level. It is wind resistant. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. Wittunga Botanical Gardens.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

It is grown from seed. The seed need treatment to break the hard seed coat. Normally this is by putting the seeds in very hot water and letting the water cool down overnight then planting the seeds immediately. It can be grown from cuttings. Trees re-sprout from the base when cut down.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

It is usually fast growing.

## NOTES

There are about 1,350 Acacia species. Over 1,000 occur in Australia. It has become a weed in South Africa. Also as Mimosaceae.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

## REFERENCES


Asfaw, Z. and Tadesse, M., 2001, Prospects for Sustainable Use and Development of Wild Food Plants in Ethiopia. Economic Botany, Vol. 55, No. 1, pp. 47-62

Barwick, M., 2004, Tropical and Subtropical Trees. A Worldwide Encyclopedic Guide. Thames and Hudson p 4

Bekele-Tesemma A., Birnie, A., & Tengnas, B., 1993, Useful Trees and Shrubs for Ethiopia. Regional Soil Conservation Unit. Technical Handbook No 5. p 60

Bindon, P., 1996, Useful Bush Plants. Western Australian Museum. p 27

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 32

Bonney, N., 1997, Economic Native Trees and Shrubs for South Australia. Greening Australia (SA) inc. Campbelltown SA 5074 p 20

Comm. Acac. aphyll. 26. 1820

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 79

Doran, J.C., & Turnbull, J.W. (Eds), 1997, Australian Trees and Shrubs: species for land rehabilitation and farm plantings in the tropics. ACIAR Monograph No 24. p 210

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1982, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 2. Lothian. p 110

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 56

Flora of Pakistan. www.eFloras.org

Greig, D., 1996, Flowering Natives for Home Gardens. Angus & Robertson. p 39

Hall, N. et al, 1972, The Use of Trees and Shrubs in the Dry Country of Australia, AGPS, Canberra. p 195

Hnatiuk, R. J. 1990. Census of Australian vascular plants. Australian Flora and Fauna Series No. 11.

Holliday, I., 1989, A Field Guide to Australian Trees. Hamlyn. p 32

ILDIS Legumes of the World http:www;ildis.org/Legume/Web

Kew Plants of the World Online

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 6

Lord, E.E., & Willis, J.H., 1999, Shrubs and Trees for Australian gardens. Lothian. p 42

Marchant, N. G. et al. 1987. Flora of the Perth Region.

Maslin, B. R., et al, 1998, Edible Wattle Seeds of Southern Australia. CSIRO p 49

Mbuya, L.P., Msanga, H.P., Ruffo, C.K., Birnie, A & Tengnas, B., 1994, Useful Trees and Shrubs for Tanzania. Regional Soil Conservation Unit. Technical Handbook No 6. p 64

Meagher, S., 1975, The Food Resources of the Aborigines of the South-West of Western Australia.

National Academy of Sciences. 1980. Firewood crops. Shrub and tree species for energy production.

National Academy of Sciences. 1979. Tropical legumes: resources for the future

Paczkowska, G . & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Catalogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 322

Palgrave, K.C., 1996, Trees of Southern Africa. Struik Publishers. p 250

Pham-Hoang Ho, 1999, An Illustrated Flora of Vietnam. Nha Xuat Ban Tre. p 821

Plants and People in Mooro Country. Nyungar Plant use in Yellagonga Regional Park

Plowes, N. J. & Taylor, F. W., 1997, The Processing of Indigenous Fruits and other Wildfoods of Southern Africa. in Smartt, L. & Haq. (Eds) Domestication, Production and Utilization of New Crops. ICUC p 184

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (1999). Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SEPASAL) database. Published on the Internet; http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/ceb/sepasal/internet [Accessed 27th April 2011]

van Wyk, B, van Wyk, P, and van Wyk B., 2000, Photographic guide to Trees of Southern Africa. Briza. p 41

Wiersema, J. H. & Leon, B., 2013, World Economic Plants. A Standard Reference CRC Press. 2nd Ed. p 6

Willis, J. H. 1970-1972. A handbook to plants in Victoria.

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

**PROVIDED BY** **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

**LICENCE** CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

**ONLINE FACT SHEET** https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/1c5410fb-698f-499b-a712-0d8c1bb519ad