PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia difficilis Maiden

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES River wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Gum

The gum is eaten. The seeds are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A neat small shrub. It grows up to 4-5 m high and has branches which hang down. The shrub has a rounded shape. The bark is slightly rough towards the base of the tree. The branches can be smooth or have short white hairs. The leaves (phyllodes) are broad and curved. They are 8-16 cm long and 2-4.5 cm wide. They are grey-green. They have many veins along the leaf of which 3-5 are more easily seen. The flowers are yellow in spikes. They have a smell. The flower spikes are 2-5 cm long. Often 1-3 spikes grow together in the angles of leaves. The pod is smooth, straight or slightly twisted and nearly round in cross section. They are 10-14 cm long and 0.3-0.4 cm wide. They are brown when ripe with several black seeds. The seeds are oblong and arranged along the pod lengthwise.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It normally grows in sandy well drained soils. It grows naturally in open forest and along creek banks.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. Seed need to be immersed in boiling water for one minute to break the seed coat.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The tree flowers in May to August and produces pods and seeds in August to October.

NOTES

There are about 1,350 Acacia species. Over 1,000 occur in Australia. Also as Mimosaceae.

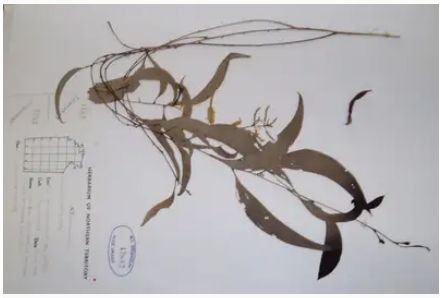
PICTURES



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

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