PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia stenophylla Cunn. ex Benth.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES River cooba, Eumong

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Gum, Leaves

The pods were roasted and the seeds eaten. Clear gum is eaten raw or softened in hot water then eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub or tree. It grows to 6-20 m high and with a spread of 3-8 m. The stem is erect and slender. Under good conditions the trunk can be 50-60 cm thick. The bark is rough and dark brown. The branches are angular and hang downwards. The leaves (phyllodes) are greyish-green and leathery. They are 15-50 cm long and narrow (0.5 cm). This long narrow shape makes the leaves distinctive. They have prominent veins and are covered with white hairs. The leaves hang downwards. The flower heads are small yellow balls. They occur in clusters of 3-6 heads. The pods are long (10-15 cm) by 1 cm across. They are leathery and twisted. They are contracted between the seeds.

HABITAT

It occurs naturally on the Australian mainland. It grows in a wide climatic zone from northern tropical to cool temperate. It is often in arid or semi arid places. Rainfalls between 25 mm to 60 mm occur. It grows where summer temperatures are high but winter frosts occur. It prefers heavy soils. It does best in a sheltered position. It is restricted to river courses. It does best with good drainage but can withstand flooding for a short time. It is drought and frost resistant. It can grow in slightly salty soils. It suits hardiness zones 8-10.

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. If the roots are damaged it suckers very easily and can form clumps. It can be grown from cuttings or suckers.

NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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