PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia podalyriifolia A. Cunn. ex G. Don

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Mount Morgan Wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Seeds

The flowers can be fried and eaten. They are mixed with a light batter and made into fritters. These can be served with sugar and whipped cream.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It grows to 3-5 m high and 3-4 m across. The stem is erect and slender. The bark is pale brown. The tree has a graceful weeping habit. The small branches have a bluish bloom and rigid hairs. The leaves (phyllodes) are silvery white. They are broad and oval with a single vein. They are 2-6 cm long and 1.5-3 cm wide. The flower heads are deep golden balls 1 cm across. They occur in large numbers in clusters. The flowering branches are 7-15 cm long. The flowers have a sweet smell. The pods are brown and flat. They are broad and wrinkled. They are 6-8 cm long by 2-2.5 cm wide.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It occurs naturally in New South Wales and Queensland in Australia. It prefers light to medium soils but will grow on almost any soil. It needs an open sunny position. It is a little drought and frost tolerant. It can be damaged by frost while young. It may need extra water in dry periods. It will grow from tropical to temperate climates. It needs good drainage. It needs a rainfall above 50 mm per year. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. Arboretum Tasmania.

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 seed are grown in a nursery the seeds grow quickly but the plants suffer a set back when transplanted. It can be heavily pruned after flowering to maintain a bushy growth pattern. It develops sooty mould in humid areas.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quickly. Flowering is July to October in Australia and pods occur October to November. It only lives for 10-15 years.

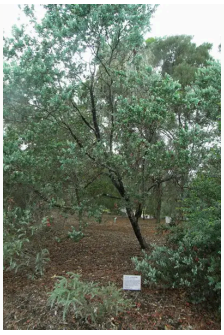
NOTES

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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