PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia oswaldtii F. Muell.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Umbrella wattle, Umbrella acacia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

The seed can be eaten raw. They are also ground to a paste.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub or tree. It grows to 3-7 m tall and 3-5 m spread. The stem is erect and stout. It has a dense crown. When stock eat the lower branches the tree takes on an umbrella shape. The branches are slightly angular. The leaves (phyllodes) are broadest in the middle and taper towards the ends. They are thick, stiff and pointed. They are 4-8 cm long and 1 cm wide. They have fine veins running along the leaf. The young growth is often silvery while the older growth is greyish green. The flowers are yellow balls. They occur singly or in pairs. The pods are woody and twisted. They are 6-25 cm long and 1 cm wide. They are slightly constricted between the seeds. The tree provides good shade.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows naturally in Australia south of 20°S latitude. It prefers light to medium soils. It needs an open sunny position. It is drought resistant. It is probably damaged by heavy frost. It is suited to alkaline soils.

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.

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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