PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia acuminata Benth.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Raspberry jam wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum, Seeds

The gum is edible.
Ripe seeds are also cooked and eaten. The gum can be mixed with water and stored to be used like honey.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows to 6-12 m high and 4 m across. It normally has a short main stem and then branches spread out giving it a broad crown. The stem is stiff and smooth with grey bark. The timber has the smell of raspberry jam after cutting. The wood is hard and suitable for fencing. The leaves (phyllodes) are bright green and very thin. The are almost round in cross section and 0.25 cm wide. They are 7.5-25 cm long and with a pointed tip. New growth is covered with golden hairs. The flowers are bright yellow. The flowers rods are 13-25 mm long and 6-7 mm wide. They are produced near the ends of branches. The pods are brown, flat and narrow. They can be 5-7.5 cm long and straight. They are 5-8 mm wide. The seeds are dark brown and shiny. They are 3-6 mm long by 2-4 mm wide.

HABITAT

A temperate plant. It prefers light well drained soils. It does best in sunny positions. It can withstand drought and frost. It grows naturally in semi-arid woodlands in Western Australia. It can grow in arid places. It can grow on limestone soils. They can be alkaline. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 200-1,100 mm. It grows below 375 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. Seed needs to be treated first to enable it to grow. Normally this is by putting the seeds in very hot water and letting the water cool down overnight then planting the seeds immediately.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees grow quickly. They flower from July to October following rains.

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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