PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia retinodes Schltdl.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Wirilda, Swamp Wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Flowers, Pods, Gum

The pods are eaten.
The seeds are eaten. They can be used to make flour for breads, cakes, pastries and desserts.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows to 6 m high and 3 m across. The stem is erect and slender. It has an open textured crown. The small branches are often angular and hand downwards. They are reddish brown when young. The leaves (phyllodes) are greyish green with a single prominent vein. They are 10-20 cm long and 0.3-1.5 cm wide. They are curved and narrowed at the base. Sometimes they have a tip which curves backwards. The flowers are small clusters in the angles where leaves join the branch. These flower clusters are 2-4 cm long. They are small yellow balls. There are 6-20 flower heads in a cluster. The pods are brown. They are usually straight and flat. They are not constricted between the seeds. They are 6-20 cm long and 0.6-1 cm across. They are edible. The seed has a skin like layer around it.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. It occurs naturally in the cooler parts of Australia. It grows on light to medium soils. It requires well drained soils and a sunny position although it can stand light shade. It is drought and frost resistant. It can grow in arid places. They grow where the minimum temperature is 3-5°C. In Tasmania they occur on Flinders Island. It can tolerate short periods of being in waterlogged soils. It can tolerate some salt. It suits hardiness zones 8-10. 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.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quickly. Flowers are produced November to January. Trees do not live a long time.

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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