PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia beauverdiana Ewart & Sharman

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Bead wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

The mature seeds are eaten raw or ground to flour and cooked.

DESCRIPTION

It is an evergreen tree. It grows up to 6 m high with a spread of 3 m. The stem is erect and branching. The leaves (phyllodes) are flat and long and thin. They are about 6-0 cm long and 2-4 mm wide. The veins are fine and run parallel along the leaf. The flowers are dark yellow/golden balls. They occur in small clusters. The pods are long and brown. They are 7 cm long and 0.3 cm wide. The pod is constricted between the seeds. The seeds resemble a string of beads.

HABITAT

It prefers sandy well-drained soils. It suits an open sunny position. It is drought resistant but cannot tolerate frosts. Often it occurs in arid regions.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed. The seed needs 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.

REFERENCES

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