PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia pycnantha Benth.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Golden wattle, Australian Golden Wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Gum, flower - nectar

The seeds are eaten.
The gum is eaten.
The nectar from the flowers is used for a drink.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub or tree. It grows to 8 m tall with a spread of about 4 m. The stem is smooth and erect. The stem is rarely more than 25 cm across. The bark of the branches can have a bluish bloom. The stems can sometimes hang downwards. The leaves (phyllodes) are bright green and shiny. They are curved or sickle shaped and broad. They are 6-20 cm long and 1-2 cm wide. They are usually broadest above the centre and tapering towards both ends. They have a prominent central nerve and side veins. There is a gland near the base of the leaf. The flower heads are deep golden yellow balls. They are large and have a sweet smell. The flower clusters are on zigzag stalks. These flowering stalks are 8-15 cm long. These dense clusters of golden flowers characterise the plant making it the floral emblem of Australia. The pods are brown. They are 8-13 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. They are flat, straight and leathery. The seeds are moderate sized and oval.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. It occurs naturally in eastern Australia. It prefers shallow sandy soils. It is drought resistant but frost tender when young. It will grow in part shade or full sun. They do not suit high altitudes or very wet conditions. Naturally it grew in areas with a rainfall of 35-70 mm but now grows in areas with rainfall up to 2,280 mm. It suits hot dry areas. It can grow in arid places. It grows between 1,450-2,000 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. Tasmania Herbarium.

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. Seed can be sown directly in the field. It can also be grown from cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees grow quickly. They are short lived lasting 10-15 years. The pods open, dropping the seed to the ground.

NOTES

There are about 1,350 Acacia species. Over 1,000 occur in Australia. Also as Mimosaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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