



PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia tumida F.Muell. ex Benth.

GENUS *Acacia* FAMILY Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Sickle-leaf wattle, Pindan wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Gum, Pods

The young pods are steamed and the seeds eaten. (The seeds cause flatulence and bad breath.) The seeds especially the mature seeds may contain some poisonous substance. Their use as food is disputed in some areas. In some areas the mature seeds are pounded into flour mixed with water and eaten as a paste. The gum is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized shrub 3-8 m tall. It spreads 2-4 m across. The branches have white hairs. The bark can be silvery when young and turns red with age. The leaves (phyllodes) are large and light green. They are 10-15 (-23) cm long by 4-6 cm wide. They are thick and curved and covered with a bluish bloom and white silky hairs. There are veins running along the leaf. The flower heads are bright yellow and rod like. They are 2-4 (-7) cm long and 0.7 cm wide. They have a strong scent. The pods are 12-16 cm long by 1-1.5 cm wide. They are twisted and woody. They are round in cross section but raised over the seeds. They are fragile. The seeds are shiny dark brown. They are arranged lengthwise along the pod.

HABITAT

It occurs in northern Australia. It is often along stream banks. It needs a sunny position. The soil needs to be well drained. It benefits by watering in dry periods. It is grown in the Sahel in Africa. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. It can be cultivated by root suckers.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is a fast growing plant. Flowering occurs in Australia from April to August and fruiting from September to October.

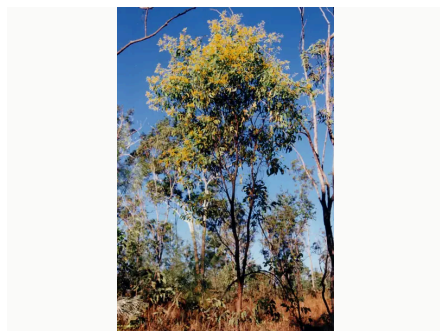
NOTES

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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Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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