PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia murrayana F.Muell. ex Benth.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Murray's wattle, Colony wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Grub, Gum

The seeds are softened by soaking in water, pounded to a paste then eaten raw. They can also be eaten green after roasting in the pod. An edible grub occurs in the roots and branches. The white gum is eaten. The mature seeds have also been roasted and ground as a coffee substitute.

DESCRIPTION

It is a bushy shrub. It grows 2-5 m tall. The trunk is slender and the bark is pinkish or white. The bark is smooth. The crown is spreading. The branches are angular in cross section. They are yellowish green to reddish brown. The leaves (phyllodes) are pale green or blue green. They are flat and thick. The edges are yellowish. They are 5-18 cm long by 0.2-0.7 cm wide. Leaf size and shape varies. The tip is blunt but with a small re-curved point. The flowers are bright yellow balls. They are 7-9 mm across. They form open branched bunches. The pods are light brown. They are papery. They are up to 5-7 cm long and 1 cm wide. They are raised over the seeds and constricted between the seeds. This means each seed is clearly defined. The seeds are black. They are quite large and have a quite hard thick coat.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. It grows in arid and desert areas in Western Australia. It grows in sandhill country. It requires a sunny position. It needs well drained soil. It can grow in hot places. It can survive fires. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. It can be pruned after flowering.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The edible insect larvae (Bardie grub) is pulled out of the bored holes using a hooked twig. The white gum normally exudes from sites of insect damage.

NOTES

There are about 1,350 Acacia species. Over 1,000 occur in Australia. Seeds 20% protein, 5 % fat and 64% carbohydrate. Also as Mimosaceae.

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