PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia translucens A. Cunn. ex Hook.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Poverty Bush

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Grub

The seed is eaten. An edible grub occurs in the roots. (The seeds are not used for damper as they have a pungent taste.)

DESCRIPTION

A low evergreen shrub. It grows to 1 m tall and spreads to 3 m across. The stem tends to lie over and the branches are spreading. The branches are angular. The young shoots are hairy but these are lost. The leaves (phyllodes) are greyish-green and narrow. They are shiny. They are 1-2.5 cm long by 0.2-0.4 cm wide. The leaves are curved. Normally 3 veins along the leaf are faintly visible. The edges of the leaves are wavy. The leaves are leathery and the tip is blunt. The flower heads are bright yellow balls. The pods are brown and oblong. They are 2.5-3 cm long by 0.4 cm wide. They are flat, thick and woody. They stick upwards. They have a blunt hook at the end. The seeds are small and brown. They are attached at an angle across the pod.

HABITAT

A native plant of northern Australia. It is a tropical plant. It will grow on most soils. It prefers a sunny open position. It is damaged by drought and frost. It occurs in open forest.

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

Flowering is from February to November. The pods explode when ripe.

NOTES

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

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