PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia maitlandii F. Muell.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Maitland's wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Grubs, Gum

The seed is eaten. It is ground to make flour then cooked. Grubs in the roots are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It can be 2-3 m high and 1-3 m across. The small branches are slender and round in cross section. They are sticky. Resin which comes from the smooth hairless stems has a sweet smell. The leaves (phyllodes) are 1-2 cm long and 0.2-0.5 cm across. They are rigid and pointed. This makes them spiky. They have a central vein. The flower heads are bright yellow balls. Either one or two flower heads occur in the angles where leaves join. The pods are 2-4 cm long by 0.2-0.4 cm wide. They are flat and thin. The seed are rounded, small and soft.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It occurs in inland Australia. It grows in sandy soils. It needs a sunny position. It can tolerate fire. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The pods mature in October to November.

NOTES

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

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