PLANT FACT SHEET

Senegalia greggii (A. Gray) Britton & Rose

GENUS *Senegalia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Catclaw acacia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Pods, Seeds

The pods are eaten raw. They are also boiled or pounded into a meal for porridge or cakes. The dried pods are used for flour.
The dried seeds are eaten like beans.

DESCRIPTION

A spiny shrub or tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 1.8-2.4 m high. It can be 6 m high. The branches are covered with thorns. The trunk can be 15 cm across. The leaves are tiny and grey-green. They are twice divided and 2.5-7.5 cm long with 2-3 pairs of side axes and 3-7 pairs of leaflets. These are 3-6 mm long. The flowers are fuzzy yellow catkins. The flowers are 6 mm long and light yellow in clusters 2.5-5 cm long. The fruit are 6-13 cm long by 12-19 mm wide. They are a thin, flat ribbon-like pod. They are brown and curved and twisted. They are often narrowed between the seeds. The seeds are round and flat.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It does well in hot conditions and is very drought tolerant once established. It grows below 1,500 m above sea level. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 250-300 mm. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. The seeds are best soaked in acid to break the hard seed coat. It can be used as a hedge. It can be grown from semi-ripe cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 1,350 Acacia species. Over 1,000 occur in Australia. This one is native to North America. Also as Mimosaceae. The seeds are 33 % protein.

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