PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia dunnii (Maiden) Turrill

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Elephant Ear Wattle, Dunn's Wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

Food use needs checking.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows up to 2-7 m tall and about 2-4 m wide. The stem is slender and erect. It has few branches. The stem grows from a woody swelling which has dormant buds. The leaves (phyllodes) are silvery blue. They are broad and sickle shaped. They are 12-30 cm across. They look like an elephant's ear. They have 3 or 4 clearly seen veins which run along the leaf. These leaves can also grow on the trunk and last for many years. These leaves hang vertically. The leaves are used to wrap food. The flowers are dense golden or yellow balls. They are 1-2 cm across. They occur in flower clusters at the ends of branches. The pods are brown. They are woody pods 10-13 cm long and 2.5-3 cm across. They are flat. The pod is constricted between the seeds. The seeds are 1.2 cm long.

HABITAT

It occurs in northern Australia. It is a tropical plant. It does best in light well drained soil. An open sunny position suits it. It is drought resistant. It is sensitive to cold. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

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. The seeds germinate rapidly after treatment.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The tree grows quickly. Flower blossom occurs in flushes throughout the year. The tree may only last 5 or 6 years.

NOTES

There are about 1,350 Acacia species. Over 1,000 occur in Australia. The leaves have been used for wrapping food. Also as Mimosaceae.

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