PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia leptocarpa A. Cunn. ex Benth.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES North Coast Wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum

The gum is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows to 7-12 m high with 2-5 m spread. The stem is erect and branching. It is a graceful tree. It has a rounded crown. The bark is rough and dark. It is lightly cracked or chequered near the base. The inner bark is red. The young branches are angular. The leaves (phyllodes) are narrow and curved. They are 13-23 cm long and with 3 prominent veins. Leaves are 1.5 to 3 cm wide and shiny. The flowers are yellow rods 4-7 cm long. They occur in pairs on stalks in the angles of leaves. The pods are narrow (0.1-0.3 cm) and 10-13 cm long. They are papery. They coil and twine into clusters. They are dark brown when ripe. They contain several black seeds. The seeds are 4 mm by 2.5 mm.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. A native plant of Australia and Papua New Guinea. It will grow on most soils. It prefers a sunny position. It is damaged by drought and frost. It is often near coasts or streams. It can be on seasonally flooded plains. In Papua New Guinea it occurs up to 30 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. Seed needs 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. Flowering is in June to September and pods form from August to October. It benefits from watering in the dry season.

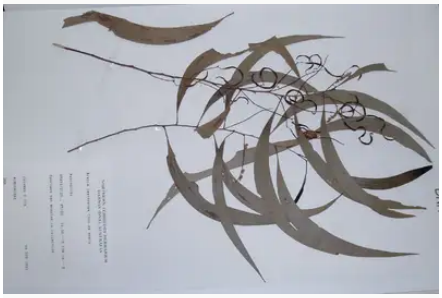
NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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