PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia aneura F.Muell. ex Benth.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Mulga, Yarran

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Flowers, Gum, Manna, Gall, Lerp

The seeds are ground into flour. The seed tastes like peanut butter and is nutritious.
Galls on the tree are used to quench thirst.
The bark exudes a gum that is edible.
Water can sometimes be found in the roots.
A sweet, red lerp that forms on the leaves and branches is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub or tree. It grows up to 7-15 m tall and spreads out to 7 m across. It has several slender stems. The bark is dark grey, thin and flaky. The branches extend in an upright fashion. The leaves (phyllodes) are greyish and narrow. The colour of mulga acacia is a distinctive greyish green. The leaves are about 7- 25 cm long. They can vary from being thin and needle like and 2 mm across to being flattened and 2 cm across. They are leathery and sometimes hang down. The flowers occur in golden rods. These spikes are 1-3 cm long on short stems. The pods are in attractive easy to see bunches. They are flattish and 8 cm long. They are often narrow at the base and broad at the tip. They can be 1.5 cm wide and contain several hard dark seeds. There are 3-5 seeds per pod. The seeds are oval shaped. They have a very hard seed coat and are about 5 mm long.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It occurs throughout most of Australia in the drier central areas. It grows in areas with a rainfall below 400 mm per year. It prefers a light well drained soil. It can grow in alkaline soils. t is suited to dry open sunny positions. It mostly occurs on flat red earth plains. Often it grows in pure stands. It is drought and frost resistant. In Africa it grows up to 2,000 m altitude. It can grow in arid places. Mulga is killed by fire. It suits hardiness zones 9-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. Seed needs to be treated before it will grow. Normally this is by putting the seeds in very hot water and letting the water cool down overnight then planting the seeds immediately. Seed can be harvested by shaking from the tree or by raking it up off the ground.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Flowering is mainly April to July or following rain. If good following rains do not occur many flowers simply fall without forming pods and seeds. Following good rains, insect attack produces galls 1 cm across with a juicy yellow flesh. These are edible. The galls with small protuberances are the ones which are edible. The honey dew from the lerp insect (Austrotachardia acaciae) is also edible. It is soaked in water to produce drinks. Yields of seed from wild stands of mulga can be 100 kg per hectare.

NOTES

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

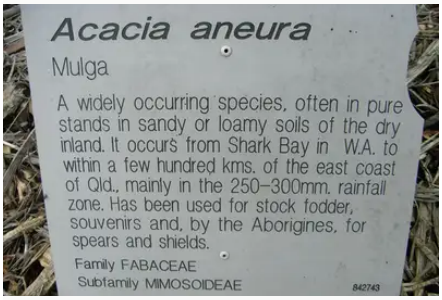
PICTURES



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