PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia latescens Benth.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Ball wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum, Sap

The gum is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A slender tree up to 5-8 m high. It has a narrow crown. It can be 3-4 m across. The small branches hang downwards. The leaves (phyllodes) also hang downwards. The bark is rough and dark brown to black. The leaves are smooth, narrow and slightly curved. They are 10-20 cm long by 0.5-2 cm wide. They are dark green. Two or 3 raised veins run along the leaf. The flowers are cream and on balls. They are 0.5 cm across. Several flowers occur together on short stalks in the angles of leaves. The pod is smooth and straight. It is 12-18 cm long and 1.2-2 cm wide. The pods are pale brown when ripe. They are slightly woody. They are flat and with prominent edges. They contain several black seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant and grows in the northern tips of Australia. It often grows under larger trees. It needs well drained soils.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Flowers are produced in April to June and pods in July to September.

NOTES

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

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