PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia coriacea DC.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Witchety bush, Cork bark wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Pods, Flowers, Seeds

The seeds are eaten after being crushed into flour. They can be eaten raw when young or roasted when mature. They can also be steamed in the green pods and eaten like peas.

DESCRIPTION

It is a bushy tree. It grows up to 3-10 m high and 2-4 m across. The trunk is well defined and the bark grey and corky. The young branches are ash grey. The leaves (phyllodes) are very long and thin. They are 12-35 cm long by 0.1-0.5 cm wide. They are flat and covered with fine silvery hairs. They hang downwards. The flowers are golden fluffy balls. Each flower stalk has 30-40 small flowers. The pod is 15-23 cm long and 0.8-1 cm wide. It is curved and twisted. It is leathery and covered with fine hairs. The seeds are black with a red dot. They are relatively large.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. It grows in deep, red, sandy soils. It grows naturally in arid and semi arid regions. Soils need to be well drained. It is drought tolerant. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seeds should be immersed in boiling water for one minutes to break seed coat dormancy.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants can flower within 2 years of planting.

NOTES

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

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