PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia acradenia F.Muell.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Silky wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Gum

The seed are eaten. The gum is also used.

DESCRIPTION

A tropical shrub. It grows up to 3 m tall. It has grey or brown smooth bark. The young shoots are covered with woolly hairs. The small branches can be round or angular in cross section. The leaves (phyllodes) are 3-9 cm long and 0.6-3 cm wide. The base of this leaf continues down the stem. The leaf is sharply pointed at the end and leathery in texture. The leaves are flat and yellowish green. They have 4-6 veins which run along the leaf. The flower heads and long (2.5-4 cm) the stalk is hairy. These flowers are bright yellow. The pods are 5-7 cm long and 0.1-0.3 cm across. They are sickle shape and circular in cross section. They are only slightly constricted between the seeds. They are leathery and sticky. The seeds are longer than wide and lie along the pod. They are small, narrow and soft coated.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It suits a warm dry climate. It requires a well drained soil in a sunny position. It can grow in arid places. It is best with a temperature between 24-34°C and an annual rainfall between 400-800 mm. It is best with a soil pH 7-8.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed. It is killed by hot fires.

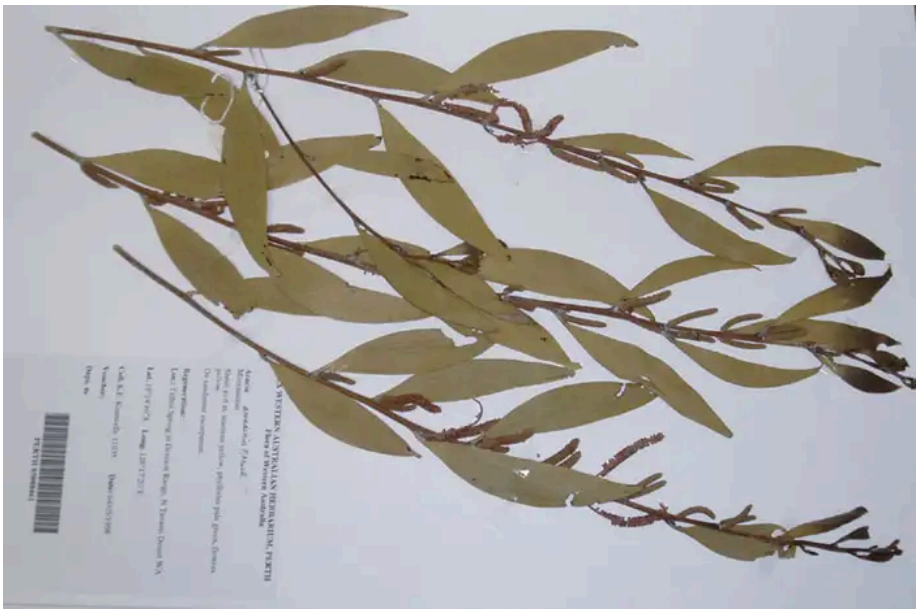
Harvesting and Seed Production

Flowering is in March to July with fruit from July to October. This depends on rainfall.

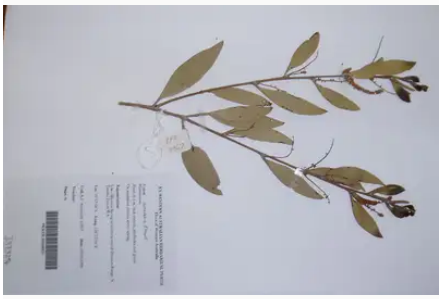
NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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