PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia decurrens (Wendl.) Willd.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Sydney green wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum, Leaves - tea, Seeds

The gum is eaten.
The leaves have been used for tea.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows to 15 m high with a spread of 5 m across. The stem is green and angled. The young branches are winged. The leaves (phyllodes) are dark green and are divided into secondary leaflets. They have a appearance like a feather. The leaves are 8 cm long with 6-12 pairs of larger leaflets and 60-80 smallest leaflets. The flowers are golden yellow balls in a much branched flower. They are 0.5 cm across. They are in They have a sweet smell. Many flowers occur. The pods are long and constricted between the seeds.

HABITAT

A temperate plant. It occurs naturally in Eastern Australia. It has been introduced to Tasmania. It prefers medium soils and a protected position. It is drought and frost resistant. It grows in areas with a rainfall between 450-3,600 m above sea level. It is frost tender while young. Because of its showy appearance and use as firewood it has been introduced to other countries. It suits warm temperate places. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 9-10. Tasmania Herbarium. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. The seed need 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.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

There are about 1,350 Acacia species. Over 1,000 occur in Australia. This one has spread in an uncontrolled manner in South Africa. Also as Mimosaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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