PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia umbellata A. Cunn. ex Benth.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

The seeds are eaten. The hard black seeds are crushed into flour and water added before cooking as flat cakes.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized shrub with a bushy growth habit. It grows 3-4 m tall and 1-3 m across. The young branches are silky hairy. They are reddish. The bark is rough, grey and fibrous. The leaves (phyllodes) are 3-13 cm long by 1.5-3 cm wide. They are oblong with a blunt tip and shiny green. They are straight and very thick and have veins which run along the length. The flower heads are like yellow rods and 2.5-3 cm long. They can occur either singly or in clusters. There are many flowers. The flower stalks are 0.3-0.5 cm long. The pods are 5 cm long and round in cross section and woody. They can be curved or straight. Pods are pale brown when ripe. The seeds are black and attached lengthwise along the pod.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in northern Australia in open forest. It must have good drainage. It often occurs on poorer gravely loams and sandstone country.

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 a hardy fast growing plant. Flowers occur periodically November to March or March to July. Fruiting can occur throughout the year but often July to September. Flowers and ripe pods can be found on the one tree at the same time.

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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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c3d4ce18-166c-494a-b50b-d6e5d58569f8