PLANT FACT SHEET

Vachellia pennatula (Schltdl. & Cham.) Seigler & Ebinger

GENUS *Vachellia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Feather acacia, Fern-leaf acacia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Pods, Seeds, Sap

The sap is scraped off the bark and eaten.
The pods and seeds are processed into flour.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It can grow to 10 m tall. It has large spines 1-1.5 cm long. The trunk is straight and 25 cm across. The leaves are twice divided with many small leaflets 1-3 mm long. The flowers are yellow and in dense rounded clusters. They have a scent. The fruit are pods that vary in length from 5-13 cm long. They are narrowly oblong and have 8 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It suits the seasonally dry tropics.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

Pods develop within 1-2 months of flowering. The unripe pods stay of the tree for 9-10 months.

NOTES

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

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