PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia melanoxylon R. Br.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Australian blackwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Gum

The gum is eaten.
The seed are edible.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows to a height of 30 m. It has a spread of 4-12 m. The stem is erect. The branches are spreading. They are angular. The bark is rough and furrowed. The foliage is often dark green and silvery. Young plants can have feathery true leaves. The leaves (phyllodes - leaf stems like leaves) are greyish green and slightly curved. They have rounded ends. There are 3-6 veins running along the leaf. The leaves are 7-20 cm long and tapered being broadest in the centre and more narrow near each end. The flowers are pale yellow balls. They are 1 cm across. The pods are curved sometimes into a complete circle. The pods are flat. The seeds are black and shiny. The seeds are bright orange where they join the pod.

HABITAT

A temperate plant. It occurs naturally in the cooler parts of Australia. It prefers rich loamy soils. It needs a protected position. It cannot tolerate drought. It is resistant to frost. It can stand light shade. In Indonesia it grows between 1,500-2,300 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 8-11. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. The seeds are first soaked in boiling water. If the roots are damaged it produces suckers.

NOTES

There are about 1,350 Acacia species. Over 1,000 occur in Australia. This one can become invasive. Also as Mimosaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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