PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Acacia suaveolens* (Smith) Willd.

**GENUS** *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Sweet scented wattle

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Seeds, Leaves - tea

The young seeds are steamed and eaten. The pods are not eaten, The seeds can be cooked in the pod then removed.
The leaves have been used as tea. They can be used fresh or dried.

## DESCRIPTION

A straggly evergreen shrub. It grows to 2 m high and spreads to 2 m across. The stem is erect and slender. The small branches are sharply angular. They form a spreading open branched shrub. The leaves (phyllodes) are bluish grey and narrow. They have a single vein and are thickened at the edge. They are 5-14 cm long by 0.3-1 cm wide. They can be slightly curved. They are narrowed towards the base. The flowers are pale yellow balls. They are sweetly perfumed. They occur in long narrow clusters. A leaf like structure (bract) occurs near the flower buds but falls off early. The pods are long and flat. They can be 3-4 cm long by 1.5 cm across. They are purplish brown. The edges are thickened. There are about 6 seeds in a pod.

## HABITAT

It is a warm temperate and subtropical plant. It occurs naturally in south eastern Australia. It prefers sandy soils. It does best in an open sunny position but can grow in light shade. It is drought and frost resistant. It grows well in coastal positions but cannot tolerate salt spray. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. Tasmania Herbarium. Arboretum Tasmania.

## 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. It can be pruned after flowering. It can be grown from cuttings.

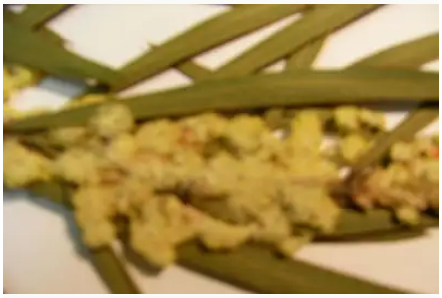
## NOTES

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

## PICTURES




Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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