



PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia auriculiformis A. Cunn. ex Benth.

GENUS *Acacia* FAMILY Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Black wattle, Ear Pod Wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum, Seeds - oil, Leaves

The seeds are ground into flour to make damper.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows to 17-20 m height and spreads about 5 m wide. It has lots of leaves and forms a dense round crown. The stems are erect and stout. The bark is greyish-green. It is rough and hard. The branches are angular. The leaves (phyllodes) are sickle shaped. They taper to a blunt tip and are 10-20 cm long. They are 1.5 to 3.5 cm across. The 3 main veins are prominent. The leaves are shiny and dark green. The flowers are dull golden rods. They are about 8 cm long. These rods occur in pairs in the angles of the leaves. The pods are woody, twisted and hard. These ear like pods are distinctive. They are about 5-7 cm long and 1.5 cm wide. They are dark brown when ripe. They contain black seeds arranged diagonally. The seeds are attached by a bright red aril.

HABITAT

They are tropical plants. Often trees grow in monsoon vine forest. In tropical Queensland it grows from sea level to 500 m altitude. They are often along the banks of freshwater streams. It prefers open sunny positions. It can survive drought. It is damaged by frost. It can grow on poor soils. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. The seed needs treatment to help it grow. Normally this is by putting the seeds in very hot water and letting the water cool down overnight then planting the seeds immediately. It is a fast growing plant.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing. It is brittle in wind storms. Flowering is May to July with pods in August to October.

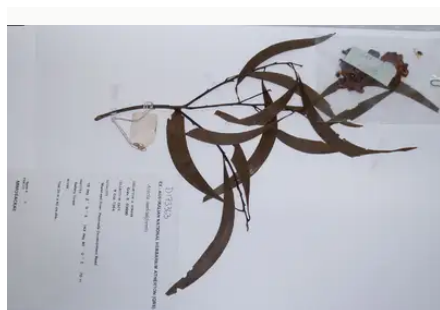
NOTES

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

PICTURES



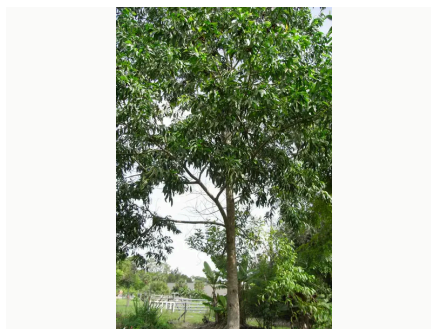
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