PLANT FACT SHEET

Vachellia nilotica subsp. kraussiana (L.) Willd., (Benth.) Brenan

GENUS *Vachellia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Scented thorn

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum, Pods - flavouring

The gum from the bark is edible. It is used for sweets.
The soft inner bark is used to curdle milk.
The roasted pods are used for flavouring.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It loses its leaves during the year. The crown is flattened. The bark is dark grey with cracks along it. The young twigs have short hairs. It has spines which are in pairs and straight but usually pointing slightly backwards. The leaves are twice divided compound leaves. The flowers are in round heads. They are golden-yellow. The fruit are flat pods which are black and are deeply constricted between the seeds. They have a sweet scent when crushed.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is resistant to drought and frost. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall above 100 mm. It grows between 5-1,830 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Seeds are removed from dry pods. These are placed in hot water then left overnight to soak then planted. They germinate in 7-15 days. The plant can be cut back and will re-grow.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows at a moderately fast rate. It can grow 70 cm a year.

NOTES

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

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