PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia ligulata A. Cunn. ex Benth.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Umbrella bush, Small Cooba Wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Gum, Grub

The seeds are ground into flour then eaten.
It often has an edible grub in the roots.
The white gum is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub up to 3-4 m tall. It spreads out about 3 m across. It usually has a rounded shape. The stem is erect and slender. It has graceful weeping branches. The leaves (phyllodes) are narrow and oblong. They have a small hard point. They are tapered at both ends. They can be 10 cm long by 2 cm wide. (When the tree grows on limestone the leaves are more broad and with a bluish-green colour.) They are greyish green. The flowers are orange balls. They are about 0.5 cm across. There can be one to 5 flowers in the angles where leaves join. The pods are hard and 5-10 cm long. They are constricted between the seeds. They are also brittle breaking between the seeds. The seeds are rather hard and with a red or yellow section where they join the pod.

HABITAT

It is native to inland Australia. It occurs on dry alkaline soil or coastal sand dunes. It prefers open sunny positions. It is resistant to drought and frost. Fire stimulates the germination of seedlings. It grows in areas with annual rainfalls between 120-1,200 mm. It can grow in arid places. In the Inland Botanical Gardens Mildura.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. Seed needs 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.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The flowers are produced in August to October and the pods from October to November. Flowering can also occur at other times of the year. This depends on rainfall.

NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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