



PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia crassicarpa A. Cunn. ex Benth.

GENUS *Acacia* FAMILY Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Lancewood, Hickory Wattle, Thick-podded salwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots, Seeds

The young roots are roasted and eaten.

The seeds are roasted and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows to a height of 8-14 m with a spread of 4-8 m. It grows larger under more favourable conditions. The stems are erect and smooth. The leaves (phyllodes) are curved or sickle shaped and leathery. They are 10-24 cm long and taper towards both ends. They have prominent veins. They are covered with a powdery bloom. The flowers are golden rods. They are 4-6 cm long. The flowers are in pairs. The pods are long (5-7 cm) and brown. They are 1.5 to 3.5 cm thick. They are hard and woody. The seeds are dark brown.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It mostly occurs in the tropics in Australia and Papua New Guinea. In Papua New Guinea it occurs in the dry Western province regions. It prefers light soils in an open sunny position. It can resist drought and frost. But it grows better with extra water during dry periods. It mostly occurs in coastal regions up to 30 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. 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. The pods occur in October to November.

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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