



Acacia decurrens



PEA FAMILY

Fabaceae; Subfamily: Mimosaceae

COMMON NAMES

English: acacia bark, early black wattle, green wattle, Sydney wattle, tan wattle

Indonesia: wartel

DESCRIPTION

Evergreen tree with no thorns/spines [5–10 (–15) m tall]; no visible hairs; branches prominently angled with wings or ridges that emanate from the leaf bases.

Bark: Olive-green turning grey, smooth to deeply fissured.

Leaves: Bright green, twice-divided, feathery; leaflets slender (6–15 mm long), a single raised gland occurs at the junction of each pair of leaf branchlets.

Flowers: Bright yellow, rounded clusters arranged into larger, showy, elongated compound clusters.

Fruits: Pods (several-seeded dry fruits that split open at maturity), green turning dark brown as they mature, elongated, hairless, slightly flattened (2–10 cm long), containing about 11 black seeds.

ORIGIN

Southeast Australia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Fuelwood, building materials, timber, tannins, pulp, soil conservation, windbreaks, shelter, shade and ornament.

INVADES

Roadsides, disturbed land, wasteland, urban open space, grasslands, savannah, forest edges/gaps and riparian vegetation.

IMPACTS

The accumulation of dead/rotting foliage forms a thick ground cover which, over time, eliminates the growth and establishment of other vegetation (Ruskin, 1983). When it forms dense thickets along waterways it reduces water flow and can contribute to flooding (Hill *et al.*, 2000) and streambank erosion. It has a significant impact on water runoff, and because it fixes nitrogen, it alters soil nutrient cycling. Its pollen is reported to be allergenic.



Acacia decurrens Willd



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