

Acacia melanoxylon

Mimosoideae

Southern Australia

Eng: Australian blackwood

- Ecology:** One of several exotic *Acacia* spp. introduced to Eritrea in the 1980s. It is planted in the upland areas, mainly in Senate and Asmara in school compounds, near tree nurseries, etc. It grows best in deep fertile loams but will tolerate wet nearly swampy soil.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, **timber** (furniture, light construction, plywood), fence posts, **ornamental**, shade, windbreak, gum.
- Description:** A tall conical timber tree that grows to 35 m. **BARK:** Dark grey, **much fissured**. **LEAVES:** Dense grey-green, the very first leaves have feathery leaflets, but mature leaves are **flat, leathery leaf stalks**, slightly curved, to 10 cm long. **FLOWERS:** Creamy white in small round heads on a **branched stalk**. **PODS:** **Curved, twisted** and about 12 cm in length, they split to reveal **hanging shiny black seeds surrounded by a soft orange aril**.
- Propagation:** Seedlings.
- Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 55,000-85,000.
- treatment:** Immerse in boiling water, allow to cool. Germination rate: 55-90%.
- storage:** Can be stored.
- Management:** Lopping, pollarding.
- Remarks:** A very fast-growing tree producing hard and valuable furniture timber. It is moderately resistant to termites but highly susceptible to parasitic *Loranthus* spp. and to the fungus *Armillaria mellea*.

