

Acacia melanoxylon

Mimosoideae

Australia, Tasmania

- Common names: Eng: Australian blackwood.
- Ecology: Introduced in South America (Uruguay), Asia (Sri Lanka), the Mediterranean region and several countries in Africa. In Tanzania it was first grown at Amani, Mt. Meru and Iringa — although it has not been widely planted. It grows best in deep, fertile loams but will also tolerate wet and nearly swampy soil. It performs well in the climatic range of transitional to wet montane, 1,500-2,500 m.
- Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture), plywood, posts, tool handles, ornamental, shade, windbreak, gum.
- Description: Much-branched evergreen timber tree up to 35 m, conical in shape with dense foliage. BARK: dark grey, much fissured. LEAVES: the very first leaves have feathery leaflets but mature leaves are **flat leathery leaf stalks** (phyllodes), slightly curved to 10 cm. FLOWERS: creamy-white in **small round heads on a branched stalk**. FRUIT-, curved, twisted pods about 12 cm long with **hanging, shiny black seeds surrounded by a soft orange aril**.
- Propagation: Seedlings, stumps and direct sowing in high-rainfall areas.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 50,000-70,000. Seeds are hard. Germinate in 10-30 days; good seed has a 30-60% germination rate.
- treatment: soak in hot water and allow to cool for 24 hours, or soak in water at 90°C for 1 minute.
- storage: stores well for many years if kept dry and insect free.
- Management: After felling regeneration by root suckers is possible.
- Remarks: A fast-growing tree producing hard and valuable timber. It is moderately resistant to termites but highly susceptible to *Loranthus* spp. and to the fungus *Armillaria mellea*.

