

Australia

Eng: *Port Jackson willow, Weeping wattle, Willow wattle*

**Ecology:** A thornless exotic tree introduced from south-west Australia. It grows on many soils but does best on light-to-medium loams and well-drained soils and is drought hardy. Introduced in the highlands of Eritrea it can grow in shallow degraded soils.

**Uses:** **Firewood**, posts, fodder (leaves), bee forage, **soil conservation, soil improvement**, nitrogen fixation, ornamental, shade, **wind-break**, live fence, gum (food preservative).

**Description:** A shrub or leafy tree to 10 m. **BARK:** Smooth, grey-brown. **LEAVES:** **Long and thin to 22 cm** (feathery acacia-type leaves in seedlings; in mature tree, flattened leaf stalks become leaves, looking similar to eucalyptus leaves). **FLOWERS:** **Bright yellow**, in **small round heads**. **FRUIT:** **Thin pods, straight or curved to 15 cm, narrowed between seeds.**

**Propagation:** Seedlings, root suckers.

**Seed:** Germination rate: 55-90%. No. of seeds per kg: 14,000-80,000.

**treatment:** Immerse in boiling water and cool for 24 hours.

**storage:** Can be kept for one or two years in a cool dry place.

**Management:** Coppicing, pollarding.

**Remarks:** The tree grows rapidly. Since it is hardy and regenerates easily, there is some danger that it could become a weed if grown on farm land (which has occurred in parts of South Africa, for example). It has been used successfully to reclaim eroded land and to prevent soil erosion on the sides of steep gullies. The leaves are only eaten when there is little other livestock fodder available. The flowers are rich in nectar and thus attract bees.

