

Acacia saligna (Acacia cyanophylla)

Mimosoideae

Australia

Common names: **Eng:** blue-leafed wattle, golden-wreath wattle, Port Jackson willow, weeping wattle.

Ecology: This tree is indigenous to western Australia but now widely planted in tropical and sub-tropical areas as well as in the Middle East, Uruguay and Mediterranean Africa. In Tanzania it grows on a wide range of soils tolerating saline and alkaline soils and even infertile acid soils. It grows well in lowlands (below 500 m) with a mean annual rainfall of 250-1,000 mm.

Uses: Firewood, posts, fodder (leaves), nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, soil improvement, shade, windbreak, live fence, gum (food preservative).

Description: A small tree up to 8 m in height, the bole usually less than 1 m. Old trees can have trunks up to 30 cm in diameter. Many low descending branches give the tree a shrubby appearance. **BARK:** smooth, grey-brown. **LEAVES: long and thin to 22 cm** (feathery leaves in seedlings are followed by flattened leaf stalks, the mature "leaves" which look like gum-tree leaves). **FLOWERS: bright yellow, in small round heads**, on stalks to 2 cm. **FRUIT:** thin pods, straight or curved to 15 cm, narrowed between seeds.

Propagation: Seedlings, root suckers.

Seed **info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 50,000-60,000. The seeds are hard.
treatment: immerse in hot water, allow to cool and soak for 24 hours.
storage: seed stores well if kept dry and insect free.

Management: *Acacia saligna* grows well from seed. It is usually grown as an understory in fuelwood stands of Eucalyptus as it will tolerate moderate shading. Coppices.

Remarks: Suitable for planting in steep eroded and degraded sites in the coastal zones where loose and dry soil prevents establishment of other species. It is grown commercially for the gum content. Leaves are only eaten by animals if no other fodder is available.

