

Dear Members,

Only sixteen of our seventy active members have written for seeds since July. What has happened to the enthusiasm of our study group growers? We must have the participation of members to remain alive as a group.

There are several projects in which your assistance is needed and these are outlined in the newsletter. Apart from those, have you ever thought of trial growing small species suitable for growing in limited areas and/or for pot or tub culture? Of course we need information of this type for our records and for publication; as well, local groups and branches are often looking for flowering plants in pots for display purposes at native plant exhibitions and talks etc. during the year.

SEED BANK

New stock is marked with an asterisk on the enclosed revised seed list.

Donations of seed not on the list would be most welcome. Please include details of whether the seed was collected from garden grown or bush plants. If in doubt of the plant's identity please include a small piece of foliage, flowers and pods if possible.

NEW MEMBERS - Welcome to new members and to those who have rejoined. A new members' list is enclosed.

Newsletters have been received from Eucalyptus, Brachyscome and Callistemon study groups, as well as from several regions. Thank you to each group, there is always something of interest to be learned from these newsletters. For instance -

the Brachyscome group had an interesting note on the subject of classification of plants as landscaping plants. I think that it applies equally well to acacias.

It is considered important to distinguish clearly between plants of 'horticultural value' and 'landscaping plants'. Many native plants which long to the first group, would not be considered good value as landscaping plants because they need specific conditions to grow really well (i.e. very well drained soils etc.).

The comment is made that as many landscape contractors do not know much about plants, that the landscaping plants must be those which will look good year round and can be used with confidence in most or all conditions in a given area. As well they should be -

1. relatively long lived
2. " frost resistant (in southern areas particularly)
3. " drought resistant
4. " free from insect and snail attack.

Would all members list those Acacias which measure up to these exacting criteria? Would those who know or know of landscapers in their area please contact them and ascertain which Acacias they consider suitable and successful for their work? The results should be different from those used as street trees.

From the Eucalyptus Study Group newsletter comes news that a controversial revised classification of all eucalypts is soon to be published. It will be quite drastic and will split the present genus into 8 genera, leaving about 20% of the species only to be known as Eucalyptus.

It is possible in future, if all botanists concerned agree, that something similar will happen to the genus Acacia.

Another note of interest from the Eucalyptus newsletter is that at a recent botanical conference it was decided that all species names ending in 'erana' would be changed to 'eriana'. I think that there is only one Acacia to which this would apply, A. muellerana would become A. muelleriana.

NEW SPECIES have been described by Mr. Bruce Maslin in W.A. Herbarium Journal 'Nuytsia' Vol. 4 No. 3 1983.

A. chrysochaeta is a slender erect shrub to 1.3 m tall with pendulous or spreading branches. Phyllodes are hairy and broadly linear 2-4.5cm long 2-3 mm wide. Flowers are in dense spikes. Found on side of watercourse in Kimberley region near Gibb River and Pentecost Downs Stations, W.A.

A. filamentosa. Shrub to 2m with long terete phyllodes 17-25 cm x c.1 mm. Flowers in dense spikes. Found on sandstone mesa in Kimberley region between Pentecost Downs Station north to near Kalumburu Mission, W.A.

A. richardsii. A \dagger rounded shrub 3-4 m tall; phyllodes narrow-elliptic-elliptic, 1.7-4 cm x 4.5-8.5 mm with several glands on top margin; flowers are in spikes. Found in small area on rocky sandstone from near Kununurra (W.A.) to Keep River National Park (N.T.).

A. tenuispica. Spreading shrub to 4 m up to tree 6m. Phyllodes normally elliptic 4-7 cm x 6-16 mm. Flowers in narrow spikes. Found in rocky soil in open eucalypt woodland from Prince Regent River to Drysdale River area. This species has been known as A. brevifolia Benth. and A. aff. leptophleba FM. Muell.

The following species are from Northwest Australia mostly confined to between Murchison and Ashburton Rivers.

A. anastema. Trees to 6m tall; phyllodes linear curved 15-25cm x 2-6mm. Flowers bright golden spikes. Apparently confined to Yabalgo Plain in red sand dunes between Woodleigh and Ellavalla Stations.

A. distans. Trees 5-8 m tall with bushy silver grey-green crowns; phyllodes linear 6-10 cm x 4-10 mm. Unusual flowers in long interrupted spikes to 11 cm long, 4-5 mm wide. Mainly confined to low lying alluvial plains from Mileura to Towera Stations.

A. drepanophylla. Trees 2.5-4(5)m tall; phyllodes linear slightly curved 15-20cm x 3-6 mm. Flowers in light yellow spikes. Common but restricted to vicinity of Shark Bay from Wannoo to Yaringa Stations.

A. galeata. Bushy rounded shrubs to small trees 5-6m tall with dense crowns. Phyllodes narrow elliptic to lanceolate 6-11cm, 6-15mm; flowers bright golden fragrant globular, in reduced racemes of 3-5 flower-heads. Found in sand or loam over limestone in near coastal areas in Shark Bay area and nearby islands. It occurs from Nerren Nerren Station north to Wooramel Stations and north-east to Peron Peninsula around Denham.

A. intorta. Widespreading, rather gnarled shrubs 2-3m; phyllodes narrow sharp pointed (4)5-10(12.5)cm x 1.5-2(4)mm. Flowers in spikes. Confined to drainage system in upper reaches of Ashburton River and Bulloo Downs Station and Mt. Vernon Station.

A. sibilans. Trees 3-5m, sometimes to 12m, bushy when young; phyllodes threadlike c.10-17cm x 1mm, terete, not rigid; flowers globular on reduced racemes. Extending from Shark Bay to near Mileura Station.

A. ancistrocarpa x A. trachycarpa. Known only from three scattered localities in Pilbarra region, \dagger umbrella-shaped shrubs to 3m tall with 'minni ritchi' bark; phyllodes broad linear to very narrow elliptic 9-12cm x 4-7mm; flowers in dense spikes.

PUBLISHING RESULTS

It is time we wrote regular articles on Acacia for possible inclusion in "Australian Plants".

To gain the material necessary to write these articles YOUR ACTIVE ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED to help compile a comprehensive list of Acacias suitable for different conditions in Australia.

First we will deal with plants suitable for damp or wet conditions. State if plants grow in really waterlogged areas for long periods or in areas which dry out in summer.

For instance, here in Tasmania the local A. verticillata, A. mucronata, A. axillaris and A. riceana can be found in really wet conditions often right on the banks of rivers or waterlogged areas. A. mucronata can also be found in dry areas.

Now, from your personal observation and experience would you please list those Acacias which grow in these conditions in your area. Include Acacias from other states as well if they qualify.

MEMBERS' NOTES:

I have received an interesting letter from Philip Moore on the subject of essential oils. He has forwarded me copies of published material which he has located. I shall use this information in future newsletters. Philip commented that "as for oils of acacia they are not produced here as they have been produced in France for the perfume industry that exists at Grasse near Canne on the Riviera. One of the extracts mentions that Acacia dealbata has been grown in France since 1820 for both cut flowers and oils. Just as wines grown in different areas have a different bouquet and palate so do oils from different areas. Thus, oil of A. farnesiana produced in Australia would have different notes to the French oil (notes in perfumery are equivalent to the smells of the different chemical compound that combine to give an oil its character). Thus it would be difficult to sell Oil of Cassie (A. farnesiana) to French companies unless it was very similar to the existing Oil of Cassie they are using." Some oil was refined from A. dealbata collected near Canberra which was said to smell 'very nice', but the essential oil companies in Australia showed no interest

Inez Armitage has written that she has had less success with growing Acacias at Kempsey than at Duffy's Forest. Apparently the higher rainfall does not suit those species she has tried and those that do survive past the pot stage, tend to grow tall and thin instead of retaining their compact shape. A. cardiophylla, A. chinchillensis, A. spectabilis, decorea, deanei, dealbata all come under that category.

Surprisingly, A. craspedocarpa from dry inland W.A. is doing well, as are A. muelleriana, A. ixiophylla, A. wardellii, A. o'shanesii and a hybrid A. chrysotricha x probably fimbriata.

New member, Gian Wright of Margate in southern Tasmania has most of her Acacia growing in a bare solid clay bank, which she started planting out about two years ago. She mattocks a hole about 60 cm wide and deep and fills it with earth left from the house excavations. Plants are watered over summer only; some have wire guards to protect them from rabbits. Gian says 'surprisingly the rabbits don't attack all of them - A. decora, terminalis, mearnsii, prominens, baileyana and retinodes have never been nibbled'. I wonder what they have that is different!

ACACIAS AS STREET TREES

Very few members have done their homework and sent in information regarding the above. A pity - makes it difficult to come to any worthwhile conclusions. However, some members were most helpful and we have learned that in Townsville the council does very little planting itself

but makes trees available to residents and makes little use of Acacias except in special circumstances. It provides A. aulacocarpa and A. crassicarpa principally in a seaside suburb on sand and A. leptoloba and A. hemsleyi in other areas, where quick growth and cover is required. A. auriculiformis is being tried at present and time will tell whether it is suitable for their purpose.

From Engadine southern suburb of Sydney in parks, reserves, schools etc. these are used:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| A. binervia (glaucescens) | A. prominens | |
| boormanii | pycnantha | |
| cardiophylla | saligna | |
| fimbriata | dealbata |) are used for binding along |
| floribunda | decurrens) | |
| howittii | | creek banks. |

IN Melbourne - Housing Estates in Western Suburbs.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| A. baileyana | A. longifolia |
| drummondii | pravissima |
| elata | prominens |
| floribunda | retinodes |
| howittii | saligna |
| iteaphylla | vestita |

IN Gawler, S.A. A. pendula is used as a street tree.

MOUNTING & STORING PRESSED SPECIMENS

To complete the short article on pressing plants I will now deal with their mounting and storing.

To protect your now dried specimen it is a good idea to transfer it to a card complete with collecting details. A suitable medium weight card should be chosen and cut to size. We use 42 cm x 25 cm card based on that used by the local herbarium, putting the details we require in the lower right hand corner. Thus -

Name	
Description	
Habitat	
Locality	
Date	Collector
Determined	No.

Dried specimens can be attached to the card by using gummed paper or a p.v.a. woodworking glue which dries clearly. The clear sticky tape or masking tape tend to dry out and release the specimen. After specimens are glued they must be held in place with weights until dry, an iron bar is often used.

When dry the specimen sheet may be placed in a folder of card or brown paper for protection and stored in cardboard boxes. A periodical check and spraying with insecticide needs to be made to make sure that insects do not spoil the collection.

In SUMMARY these are the projects with which your assistance is needed -

1. Checking with local authorities and making a list of Acacias used for street and roadside plantings.
2. Checking which Acacias can be used confidently as 'landscaping plants', in your area.
3. List Acacias suitable for damp or wet conditions
4. Begin trials with small Acacias suitable for small gardens, pot or tub culture.
5. Collect seed not listed in the seed list.

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO YOU ALL.

Marion Simmons