

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO 59, MARCH 1990

Dear Members

Thank you for your subscriptions and donations received since last November. Welcome to our one new member:

Mrs Elizabeth George, 18 Halwest Way, Alexander Heights WA 6064

MEMBERSHIP: Members of Study Groups are required to be financial members of the Society. The annual subscription of \$3.00 is due on 30 June.

Our thanks to the regions and study groups who sent their newsletters, they are much appreciated.

SEED BANK

Additions

aestivalis
 arrecta
 beauverdiana affin.
 concurrens
 declinata (prost)
 deflexa
 dempsteri
 eriopoda
 everestii
 fasciculifera
 jensenii
 mimula
 oncinocarpa
 pachycarpa
 sessilis
 torulosa
 trachyphloia

Deletions

caerulescens
 confluens
 dodonaeifolia
 lucasii
 subtilinervis

SEED of any species not on our list would be appreciated for the seed bank. Please collect seed from the bush if you have the opportunity. Label any seed collected whether it was from the garden or from natural bush, plus date and place of collection. Thank you.

STUDY GROUPS : The role of Study Groups and their important place in ASGAP occupied a fair amount of discussion time at the recent Biennial Conference in Hobart. Some Groups now have regional support which should augur well for their future viability. We have a new Study Group Co-Ordinator, Mrs Jan Sked of Queensland - welcome and our best wishes to Jan. Our thanks must go to Barbara Daly for all she has done for our Study Groups during her term of office.

MEMBERS NOTES

Bill Owen from Ballarat has written about the local Clarkdale Reserve which he tells me has a fine collection of Acacias. A place to remember if you happen to be in that area of Victoria in spring. I feel sure Bill would give you directions if you contacted him.

A letter from Russell Cumming of Townsville mentioned A. leptoloba which was at its best in early December with all trees covered with big panicles of white flowers which appear about one week after the

first good rains of the wet season. It is almost continuously in bud with flowers appearing spasmodically throughout the year after rain, the number of flowers reflecting the amount of rain.

Acacia dunnii, which is occasionally grown there, was the only other Acacia in flower at the time. Russell considers A. dunnii to be 'clearly the most spectacular tropical Acacia with its huge phyllodes and big panicles of very large bright yellow flowerheads'.

Thomas Ross from West Germany reported that because of no serious frost this winter his Acacias outside were all fine. A. pravissima, A. pataczekii and A. alpina were all waiting to flower when he wrote at the beginning of March. In the greenhouse A. kybeanensis, A. cardiophylla, A. barringtonensis and A. uncinata were all in flower.

In Spain A. argyrophylla was just flowering, A. anceps forming buds and A. sclerosperma and A. ashbyae were refusing to flower. Thomas mentioned that A. caerulea (ex Buchan Blue) is growing well in Spain, tolerating ocean winds, soil salinity, some shade and root competition. He considers it very hardy.

NOTES ON ADDITIONS TO SEED BANK

A. aestivalis - WA southwest often in clay. Shrub 2-3m tall with linear or oblong phyllodes 4cm x 5mm; small yellow flowers in racemes in summer. Well drained temperate.

A. arrecta - WA north west. Low flat-topped sticky shrub to 1m tall phyllodes fine terete curved 2-4 cm long. Large bright yellow ball flowers in December-August. Tropical

A. beauverdiana - WA Geraldton south. Shrub or small tree 4-7m tall; stiff linear erect phyllodes to 10cm; bright yellow rod flowers spring. Temperate

A. dempsteri. WA south-west. Erect shrub to 3m tall; stiff upright broad-lanceolate phyllodes; large bright yellow ball flowers in Spring. Well drained temperate.

A. eriopoda. WA north west. Spindly tree 4-7m tall; ribbon-like phyllodes 6-20cm x 3-5mm with yellow spike flowers. Tropical.

A. everestii Qld. south-east. Shrub to 3m tall; elliptic phyllodes to 6cm x 10-12mm; bright yellow ball flowers in racemes in spring.

A. excelsa Qld-NSW. Tree to 15m tall with furrowed bark & elliptic phyllodes 4-9cm x 3-16mm; flowers pale yellow balls mainly April-July.

A. fasciculifera Qld. east. Tree to 10 (20)m tall with furrowed bark; phyllodes oblong elliptic 5-13cm x 7-19mm; bright yellow ball flowers in racemes in summer.

A. jenseni WA inland. Shrub or small tree to 7m tall; narrow elliptic phyllodes 4-6cm x 4-6mm; bright yellow ball flowers May-June.

A. mimula NT tropical. Shrub or small tree 3-7m tall; phyllodes 8-15cm x 10-18(30) mm; large pale ball flowers in racemes in April-June.

A. oncinocarpa WA, NT tropical. Spreading shrub to 3m tall; phyllodes 7-12cm x 10-20 mm; pale yellow rod flowers in March-May.

A. pachycarpa WA NT tropical. Shrubby tree to 5m tall; broad-linear to elliptic phyllodes 15-23cm x 6-20mm; yellow rod flowers in summer.

A. prainii. Widespread WA, SA inland. Shrub to 2.5m tall with stiff linear phyllodes 3-10cm x 1-2.5mm; mid yellow ball flowers, July-Nov.

A. pubicosta. Old Central. Shrub to 5m tall with lanceolate phyllodes 4.5-7.5cm x 2.5-4.5 mm; pale yellow ball flowers in racemes July-September.

A. sessilis (previously sphacelata) WA south west. Prickly shrub to 1.5m tall with sharply pointed phyllodes; bright yellow ball flowers spring.

A. sibina. WA Geraldton inland. Shrub 1.5-3m tall with sharply pointed rigid phyllodes 8-12.5cm x 1mm; medium yellow rod flowers often in pairs in spring.

A. spathulifolia. WA common on coastal limestone, Sharks Bay. Dense bushy shrub 1-2m tall with spoon-shaped phyllodes; yellow ball flowers in spring.

A. spondylophylla. WA north west. Small spreading shrub to about 2m tall with fine crowded verticillate phyllodes; bright yellow ball flowers May-July.

A. trachyphloia. NSW - Moruya to Milton. Shrub or tree 4-12m tall with corrugated bark on older tree; dark green feathery leaves; yellow ball flowers in racemes in spring.

ACIAR - I would like to acknowledge receipt of the ACIAR Newsletter, March 1990. Thank you. The following notes have been extracted:

SPECIES TRIALS ON DRY SITES QLD.

Three main sites were selected to cover a gradient of climatic conditions - (1) at Mareeba (900 mm annual rainfall), (2) Charters Towers (650mm) and (3) Longreach (450mm).

Longreach trials have been established on two distinct soil types (a) coarse textured earths (b) cracking clays. The latter are highly alkaline, usually treeless and considered very difficult on which to establish trees. The soils of the other sites are moderately acid.

The first plantings of mixed genera were made in May 1989 after heavy soaking rains, all trees were mulched and most were to be watered until established.

At Longreach, to date A. salicina is showing early promise. At Charters Towers A. brassii, crassa ssp crassa and salicina are showing good early growth and at Mareeba A. glaucocarpa, holosericea (Coopers Creek NT provenance) are growing well. We look forward with interest to further reports of progress as it is very early days in the project.

ACACIA ARTICLE FOR 'AUSTRALIAN PLANTS'

We are often told that it is no use doing surveys, filling in data sheets etc to collect information unless the information is published. To this end I propose that we work towards a Study Group article for 'Australian Plants' which could be a guide to members, especially new ones, in the selection of Acacias for specific purposes in different climatic zones. This is made possible by the spread of our membership.

I would like this article to be a group project and would appreciate any input that you feel you would like to make. First of all I would like to receive suggestions for the content other than those I have mentioned.

To make a start I would like you to put together information on at least six species suitable for your climatic zone from each of the categories listed. They may be plants that you are growing successfully in your garden or have grown or plants that others are growing successfully in your area:

1. Acacias for containers
2. Acacias as ground covers
3. " under 1m tall
4. " 1-3m tall
5. " 3-5m tall
6. " trees over 5m tall

As well as your notes, would you include:

- a. the age of the plant
- b. soil type - acid, neutral or alkaline
- c. drainage - well drained - damp or wet in winter - damp or wet all year.
- d. pruning - whether lightly, hard or not at all.

General comments on any aspect of propagation, growing, garden conditions, failures and why you think the plant died would be useful for this article.

I look forward to your response.

Marion Simmons



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