



INDIGENOUS GARDEN

Acacia mearnsii
(Black Wattle)

Indigenous use

The gum of *Acacia mearnsii* is used as food and is mixed with ash to make cement. To ensure a supply of sap, the bark was cut in the autumn. The bark was also used to make coarse rope and string, and could be infused in water to make a medicine for indigestion. *Acacia* timbers were also used to make traditional weapons like boomerangs, spears and parrying shields.

Description

Acacia mearnsii is a spreading shrub or erect tree that typically grows to a height of 10 m. It has a smooth bark with bipinnate leaves (the leaves are made up of many small leaves). The scented flowers are pale yellow and occur between October and December, reddish-brown pods develop between October and February.



Habitat

Acacia mearnsii is native to south-eastern Australia and Tasmania. Grows commonly in moist soil types of grassland, forest edges and gaps, road sides and riparian zones (banks of watercourses) and savanna.