



---

**INDIGENOUS GARDEN**

---

## *Acacia anuera* (Mulga)

### Indigenous use

*Acacia anuera* had a wide range of traditional uses for some groups of Aboriginal people including food from the seeds, lerps and sap; tools, including shields, from the wood; resin from the phyllodes; and medicines from the leaflets and twigs. They also ate the Honey Ants that made their nests underground beneath Mulga trees as their abdomens are full of a sweet honey-like substance.

### Description

*Acacia anuera* are classified as a small tree or large shrub which can grow to a height of 10 metres depending on conditions and can live up to 400 years. They do not have leaves in a botanical sense, but instead have phyllodes, which are slim, flattened leafstalks. The phyllodes are arranged to avoid full sun and channel rainwater to the roots. Mulgas also have a taproot which can help them access deeper moisture and store water and nutrients.



### Habitat

Mulgas are common in arid to semi-arid areas of South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.