

SPECIES: *ACACIA MEARNSII*

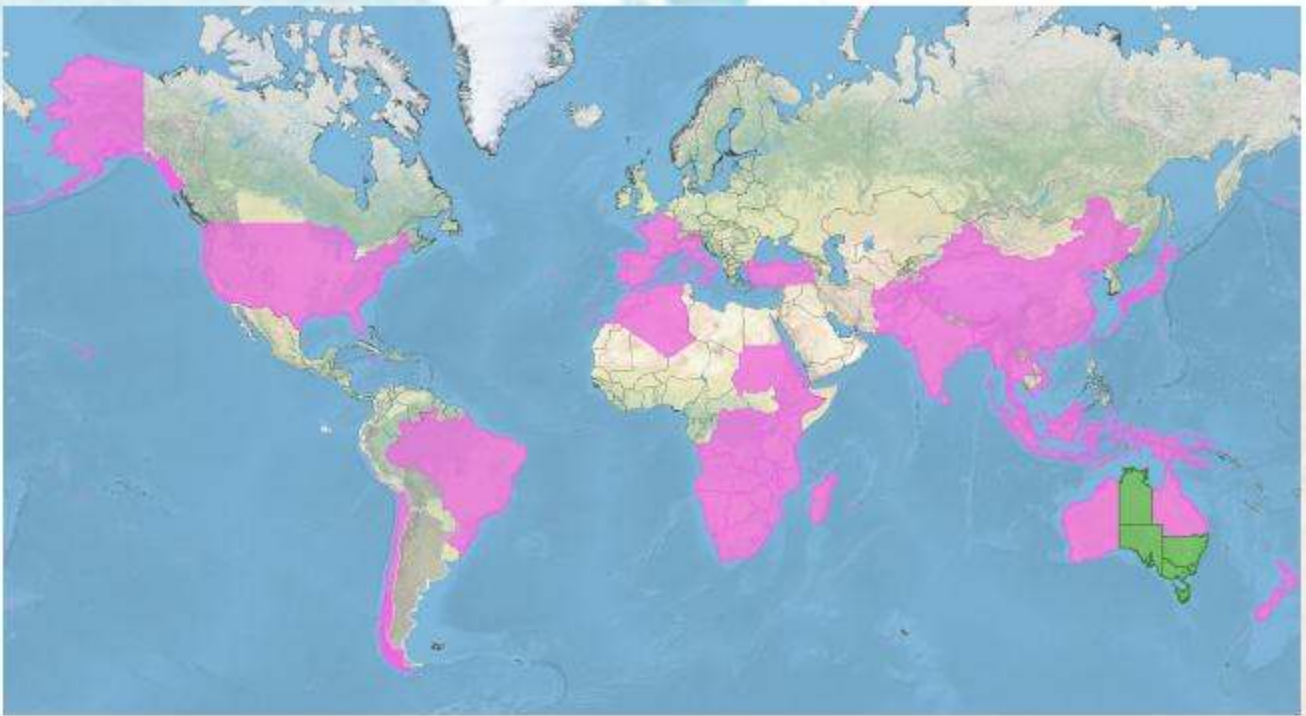
COMMON NAME: BLACK WATTLE

FAMILY: FABACEAE

Plant Description

An evergreen tree that can grow to a height of 15 meters. The trunk diameter can be from 10-45cm. The bark of younger trees is smooth and grey-brown in colour; in older trees the bark becomes brown-black in colour and develops cracks. The tree is branched with hairy branchlets. Leaves are dark olive-green in colour and are bipinnate with 8-12 pairs of pinnae, each with multiple pairs of leaflets. Flowers are spherical, creamy-white to pale yellow in colour, and occur in clusters. They produce fruits pods that are constricted between the seeds.





CABI, 2022. *Acacia mearnsii*. In: Invasive Species Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/2326>
[#toDistributionMaps](#) [accessed: 25/01/2022]

■ Introduced
 ■ Native
 ■ Origin not recorded

***Acacia mearnsii* FABACEAE**

Origin: Australia

Introduction: It was introduced to the Nilgiris in 1861 as a plantation tree to supply fuelwood and charcoal for European settlements in Ooty and surrounding areas.

Impacts: Plantations of black wattle have replaced large areas of shola grasslands and affected native species and biodiversity of the area. In Upper Palni areas, research shows that wattle plantations have decreased stream flow and reduced overall soil moisture. Bird abundance and diversity in these plantations are low compared to adjacent Shola forests. Apart from regenerating from seed, the plant also spreads through suckers, forming dense thickets to the exclusion of other species.

Management: Mechanical removal by cutting the trees is currently practised.