

Acacia parramattensis – Parramatta Green Wattle

Family:

Fabaceae - Mimosoideae

Distribution:

South from Wollemi area to Tumut and as far west as Grenfell chiefly in forests on soils of moderate fertility. In HSC; Chiefly community T1 (295 ha) BG2 (14.0ha) occasional in other communities with higher fertility soils.

Common Name:

Parramatta Green Wattle

Derivation of Name:

Acacia; Greek, derivative from the name *akakia* referring to a wattle on the Nile River in Egypt with thorns. **parramattensis**; **Greek, ensis**, belonging to- with reference to Parramatta where the species was once common.

Conservation Status:

Common across HSC except in sandstone country. Adequately conserved.

Description:

Tree to 12 m high, rarely taller, occasionally only grows as a shrub; bark smooth green on younger trees becoming darker and rough with age and increasing size. The tree has dark green bipinnate leaves with very small leaflets crowded densely. The leaf stem (rachis) has small glands at each junction of pinnae. Flowering occurs in early summer with pale yellow ball shaped flowers. Seed from the previous year's flowering event is shed at a similar time.

Longevity:

Up to 25 years, however root suckering greatly extends lifespan. Small trees killed by fire in the wild. Larger specimens may reshoot after lower intensity fires. Long lived soil seed bank.

Horticultural Merit and uses:

Attractive small tree, can have a tendency to sucker from roots if the tree is damaged which may lead to thickets forming. Tolerates a wide range of soils including heavy clay soils, best grown in full sun although it tolerates light shade well. Borers may be an issue in older trees. Very hardy once established particularly during drought conditions, it is also frost resistant to -7 degrees Celsius.

Fauna Value:

Heavy flowering provides resources for a wide range of invertebrates, particularly bees. Seed pods and seeds are eaten by parrots, fallen seeds are eaten by native pigeons. Older trees with borers attract cockatoos (particularly Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos which feed on larvae of borer's). Foliage attracts a wide range of small insectivorous birds. Sap is eaten by sugar gliders. Gliders also eat insects that this wattle in turn attracts.







