

***Acacia implexa* – Hickory Wattle**

Family:

Fabaceae - Mimosoideae

Distribution:

Widespread from Qld through NSW south into Vic common in woodlands and forest through to rainforest edges. In HSC; Communities BG1 (37.2 ha), TI (295 ha) & R (281.1 ha).

Common Name:

Hickory Wattle, Lightwood

Derivation of Name:

Acacia; Greek, derivative from the name *akakia* referring to a wattle on the Nile River in Egypt with thorns. ***implexa***; Latin, referring to the twisted seed pods.



Conservation Status:

Uncommon in HSC since it is chiefly on clay soils- which are heavily cleared of their native vegetation.

Description:

Tree to 10 m high or more with a bushy crown has very dark coloured and rough bark- more so at the base smoother above, leaves (phyllodes) are light green, drooping and sickle shaped with 3 to 7 prominent longitudinal veins 7-18cm long and 2.5 to 6cm wide. Flowering occurs irregularly (influenced by rainfall), generally in warmer months with pale yellow ball shaped flowers. Distinctive twisted seed pods follow.

Longevity:

Over 30 years; but can sucker from roots therefore extending an individual's lifespan. Above ground growth killed by fire in the wild, reshoots post fire. Long lived soil seed bank.

Horticultural Merit and uses:

Attractive small tree which grows in a wide range of soil conditions best development will occur in moist fertile loams, best grown in full sun but will tolerate light shade. Borers may be an issue in older trees. Root disturbance may stimulate root suckering to occur which maybe an issue in certain situations. Excellent tree for erosion control, develops fast, nitrogen fixing. Can be grown for timber harvesting. Drought tolerant once established.

Fauna Value:

Trees are prone to attack from borers and are regularly attacked by gall forming wasps. Seed pods and seeds are eaten by parrots and silvereyes. Provides useful pollen for bees. Foliage and bark was used as a fish poison by indigenous people since it contains saponin.





