



Acacia wrightii Wright Acacia¹

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INTRODUCTION

Quickly growing to 30 feet tall and wide, Wright Acacia forms a rounded, open canopy composed of small, bright green leaflets and remains semi-evergreen in the lower South (Fig. 1). The showy springtime displays of 1.5-inch-long spikes of yellow blossoms are abundantly produced over the slightly drooping branches. The blooms are followed by two to four-inch-long, brown, compressed pods which contain small seeds.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Acacia wrightii*

Pronunciation: uh-KAY-shuh RITE-ee-eye

Common name(s): Wright Acacia, Wright Catclaw

Family: *Leguminosae*

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 11 (Fig. 2)

Origin: native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; reclamation plant; shade tree; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; residential street tree

Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

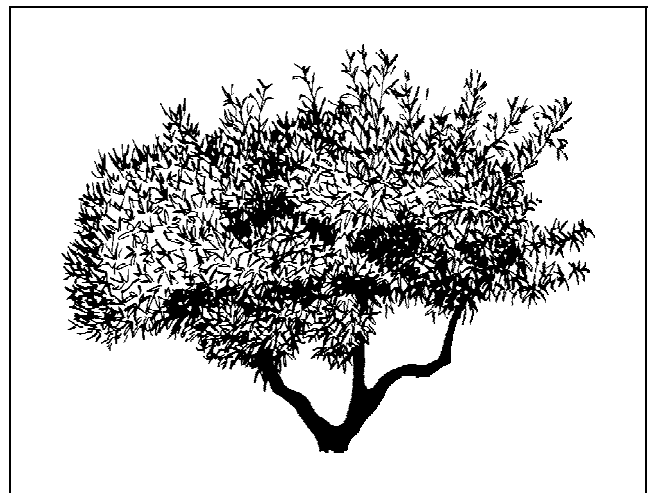


Figure 1. Middle-aged Wright Acacia.

DESCRIPTION

Height: 25 to 30 feet

Spread: 20 to 30 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

Crown shape: upright; vase shape

Crown density: moderate

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: even pinnately compound

Leaflet margin: entire

Leaflet shape: oblong; obovate

Leaflet venation: reticulate

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaflet blade length: less than 2 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white
Flower characteristics: pleasant fragrance; showy; summer flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: elongated; pod
Fruit length: 3 to 6 inches; 1 to 3 inches
Fruit covering: dry or hard
Fruit color: brown
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; no significant litter problem; showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; not particularly showy; no thorns
Pruning requirement: requires pruning to develop strong structure
Breakage: resistant
Current year twig color: brown; gray
Current year twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; alkaline; well-drained
Drought tolerance: high

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

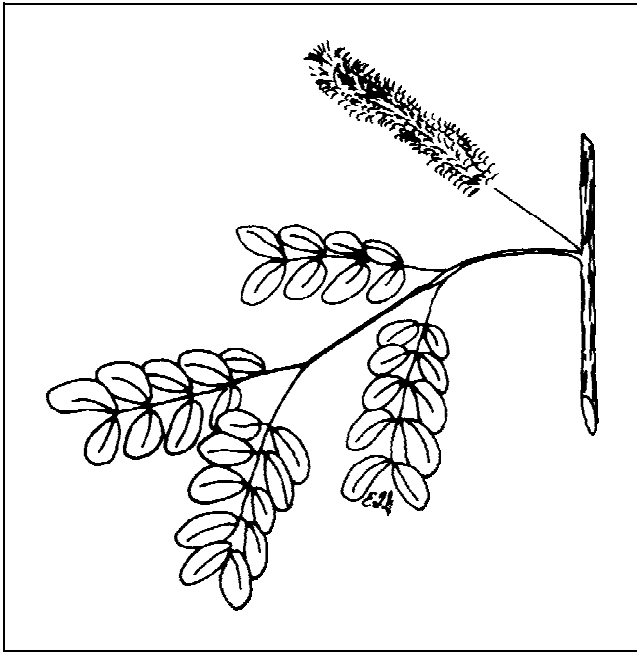


Figure 3. Foliage of Wright Acacia.

Pests

No pests are of major concern.

Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible

Pest resistance: no pests are normally seen on the tree

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Multiple trunks arise from the ground growing into the rounded canopy which provides moderately dense shade. The tree is well suited for planting near a patio or deck, or it can make a nice street tree or parking lot tree for hot, dry sites. Little irrigation is required after the tree is well established in the landscape. The spreading crown can cover an area rather quickly, producing ample shade in a small landscape. Plant trees on 20 foot centers to form an arcade of fine-textured small trees.

Wright Acacia should be grown in full sun on well-drained soil. Acacias often develop a thin canopy if grown in partial sun. The somewhat-drooping branches may require regular pruning if planted close to sidewalks or streets to allow passage of vehicles and pedestrians.

Propagation is by seed, which germinate easily, or by collection of small plants.