

Goldwreath Acacia, *Blue-leafed Wattle*

Often referred to as *Acacia cyanophylla*, its synonym, and commonly known by various names including Golden Wattle and Blue-Leafed Wattle, this tree is native to Australia. It may have been introduced into Saudi Arabia as recently as the nineteen-sixties for use in wind breaks and sand dune stabilization and was known first as *cyanophylla*, which describes its blue-green leaves. Very vigorous when young, it also has the ability to fix nitrogen with its roots. In some countries, however, it has become very invasive owing to the fact that its large quantities of seeds germinate easily, and that it regenerates after cutting. *A. saligna* grows rapidly into a small, leafy, evergreen tree with a rounded shape. It can be a multi-trunked specimen or have a single, short trunk. Its graceful, arching branches and attractive, long leaves or phyllodes give it a weeping habit. Large, bright-yellow, spherical flower heads appear in early spring and late winter, decorating the branch tips. Its seeds are stored in the nests of ants. After the ants have eaten the seed stalks, the seeds germinate. Moderately frost-tolerant and accepting most soils, it is a versatile tree that can be used as an eye-catcher in a garden, for screening, dust and wind control or planting in wide road medians. Apart from occasional pruning and good staking, it is easily maintained, although heavy root suckering can be a problem and saplings must be removed at an early stage. It can be used as a reserve of high-quality forage for use during drought, or as a mulch.



GENERAL

Origin	: sub-tropical, tropical
Vigour	: fairly fast growing
Humidity	: extremely arid, very arid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out
Maintenance	: low

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: resistant
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: low
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (2500 ppm)
Hardiness	: -3°C

SHAPE

Type	: tree
Height	: 5 m-6 m
Spread	: 4 m-6 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: bright yellow
Size	: 1 cm
Period	: February - April
Smell	: scented, pleasantly vscented, flower

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: pod
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