

Cuthbertson, Aô's Wattle, Silver Witchetty

GENERAL

Origin	: Mediterranean, sub-tropical
Humidity	: very arid, semi-arid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out
Maintenance	: low

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: resistant
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: low
Salinity/ppm	: high (3500 ppm)
Hardiness	: -6°C

SHAPE

Type	: shrub, tree
Height	: 3 m-5 m
Spread	: 3 m-5 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: yellow
Size	: 3 cm
Period	: January - March

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: pod
Fruit size	: 14 cm

This bushy, often gnarled shrub or low tree has a twisted trunk with highly fissured bark, which flakes off in brittle pieces. The yellow flowers appear profusely after copious rainfall. Commonly known in its native Australia as Silver Witchetty, *A. cuthbertsonii* occurs sporadically throughout arid parts of the country, usually growing on the gravelly soil and rocky sands of hills or along creeks and drainage lines. It requires full sun and is very drought-tolerant. Such topographical situations are similar to those of the shallow wadis and rowdahs of the Arriyadh region, where water collects after winter rains. These properties have made the tree attractive for planting in the Arriyadh region and it was selected from several Australian species for trials at the Research and Agricultural experiments Station in Dirab, Arriyadh, where it has grown well in certain experimental studies. For landscaping purposes, the tree's dense foliage make it an ideal low shrub for accent and screening. The large seed pods are eaten when still green by aboriginal people, and the bark is used as an aid against toothache and for making bandages and sandals.

