



## ***Acacia wrightii*** **Wright Acacia<sup>1</sup>**

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson<sup>2</sup>

### **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

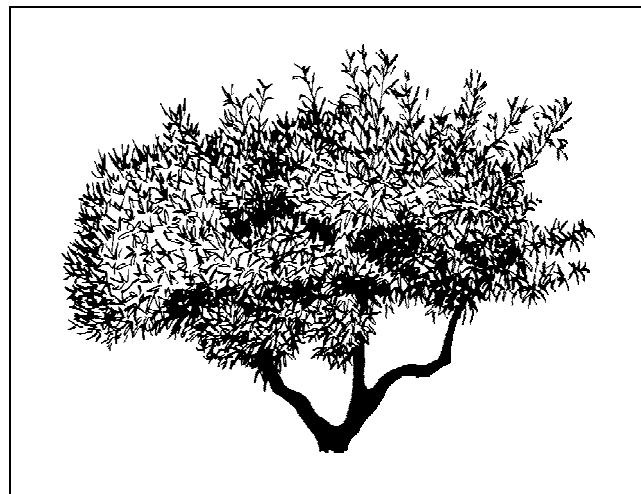


Figure 1. Middle-aged Wright Acacia.

### **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

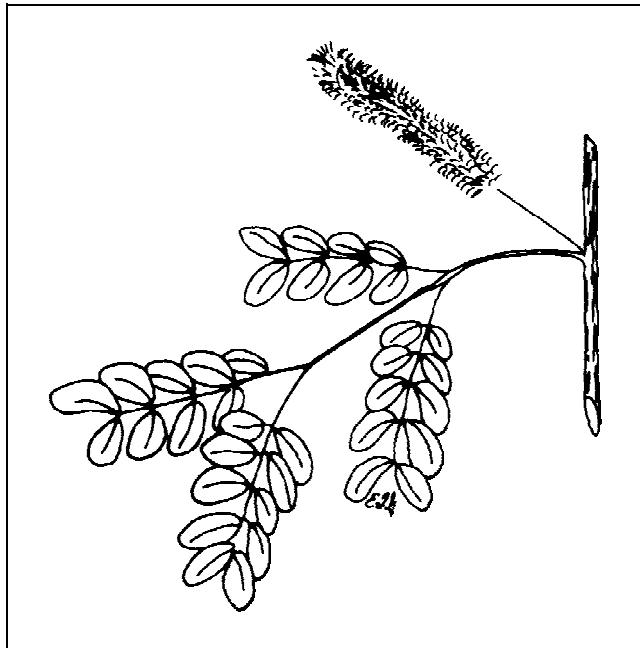
**Drought tolerance:** high

### 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.

**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

#### **Pests**

No pests are of major concern.

#### **Diseases**

No diseases are of major concern.

### **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.