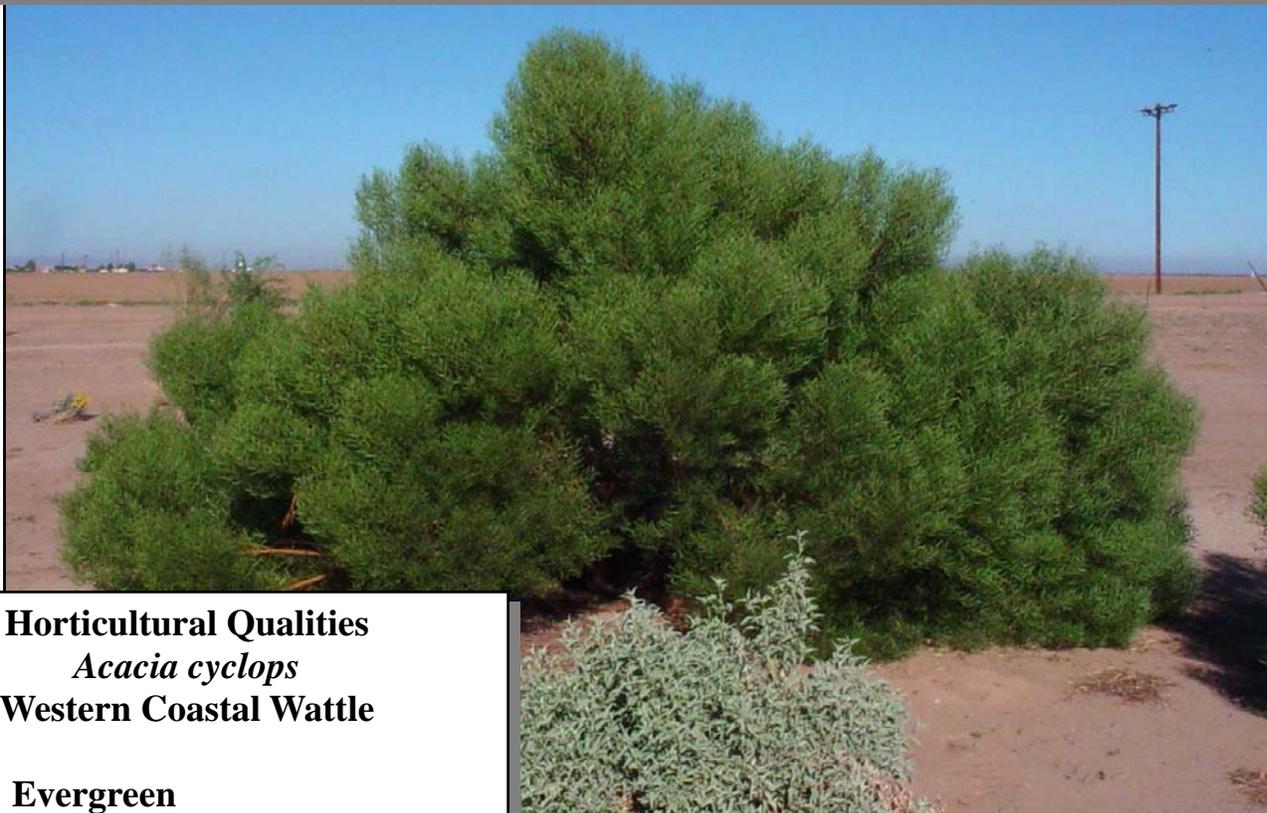


Arid Zone Trees



Acacia cyclops Western Coastal Wattle



Horticultural Qualities *Acacia cyclops* Western Coastal Wattle

Foliage: Evergreen
Mature Height: 9' - 24'
Mature Width: 9' - 24'
Growth Rate: Moderate
Hardiness: 20 degrees F
Exposure: Full Sun
Leaf Color: Green
Shade: Filtered
Flower Color: Yellow
Flower Shape: Ball
Flower Season: Spring
Thorns: None
Box Sizes Produced: 24"
Propagation Method: Seed



www.aridzonetrees.com

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Acacia cyclops Western Coastal Wattle

In native Australian habitats, **Acacia cyclops** grows as a dense, evergreen bushy shrub (often with multiple stems), or small tree 9 to 24 feet tall, with a rounded leaf canopy. The canopy is made up of light green, narrow leaves (phyllodes), that have a varnished or shiny appearance when young, and grow in a slightly down turned fashion. In spring, yellow, round, ball-shaped flowers appear. Pods, mature in summer, but are not all shed leaving seeds available to attract wildlife and birds. *A. cyclops* takes its name from its large black seed that is surrounded by a bright red tissue called an aril. The seed and aril together look like a single, bloodshot eye, hence the name Cyclops. Native to southwestern Australia, it grows mostly on coastal sand dunes. In native settings it grows relatively slowly. The trunks are a reddish brown with intricate branches, often growing with multiple trunks.

Western Coastal Wattle can grow in dry areas with annual precipitation less than 1 ½ inches and elevations below 1000 feet. It tolerates salt spray, wind, sandblast, and salinity and grows best in porous soils and full sun. It will not tolerate deep shade. It is described as "slightly frost resistant," regularly surviving temperatures in the low 20's in native settings.

Besides its use as a landscape tree or barrier planting, this species has also been used to stabilize coastal dunes in Australia and for the production of high quality firewood at maturity. The seeds contain oils making them an ideal food for birds and other wildlife and, when crushed, used as cattle feed.

Cultural Practices

Foster the development of a more dispersed root system and reduce the risk of wind throw by arranging irrigation emitters at varying distances from the trunk to encourage roots to "seek out" water and nutrients. Irrigation emitter arrangement along with other information on irrigations practices for desert trees can be found at www.aridzonetrees.com and click on the FAQ link.

Prune as needed to reinforce the structure and form of the tree. Periodic thinning is the most desirable method of pruning. Avoid hedging or heading back desert species, as this will only stimulate excessive branching. Do not remove more than 30% of the canopy during the summer as this can lead to sunburn injuries that can later be invaded by wood boring insects. Always use clean, sharp tools that are cleaned regularly in a 10% solution of bleach. For detail pruning guide see www.aridzonetrees.com and click on the FAQ interactive button.

Periodically insect pests can be a problem on some desert trees. On young trees, insect infestation can slow typical seasonal growth. Inspect trees during the growing season for common garden sucking insects such as aphids, thrip, whiteflies or psyllids. During dry months, (May and June) in dusty conditions, spider mites can appear. Monitor for infestation and apply controls as needed. Spray applications of water or water and Safer Soap give short-term control (3 to 7 days) for small insect population. For heavy infestation or longer control use federally registered insecticides. A contact insecticide application will kill existing adults. An application with a systemic soil drench will provide 8 to 12 weeks control for any post application insect hatchings or migration of insects. Before using pesticide for the first time or on new plants or cultivar, treat a few plants and check for phytotoxicity. **Always read label and follow label instruction before using pesticides. For pesticide control recommendations contact a licensed pest control advisor.**

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