

Invasive Species Fact Sheet

Pacific Islands Area

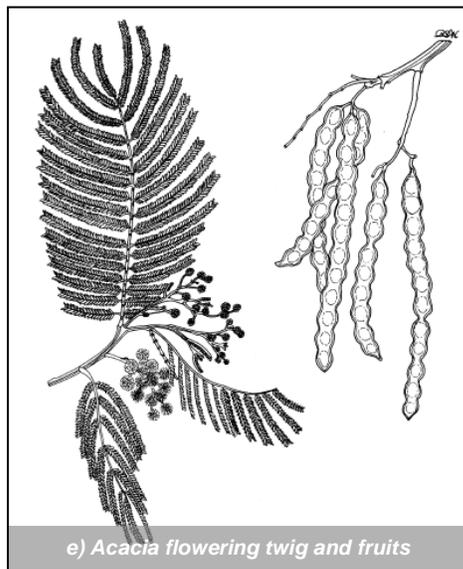
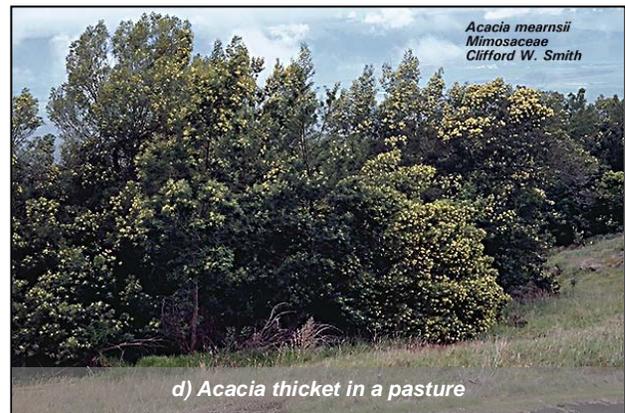
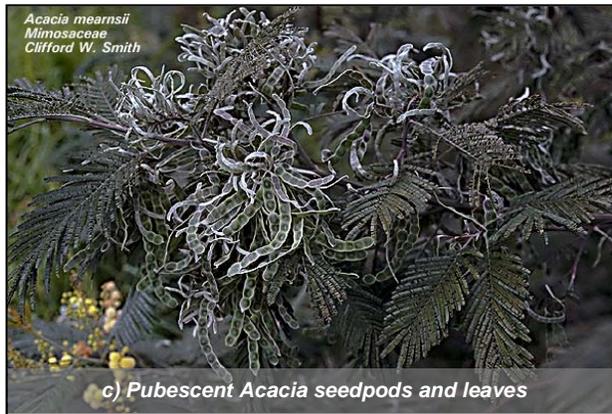
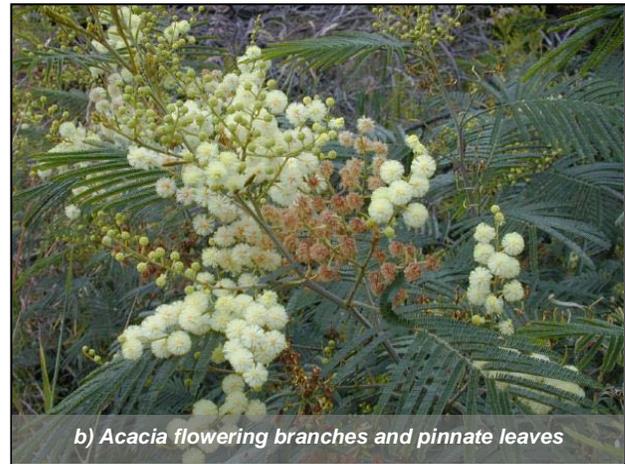
Black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*)



- Scientific name & Code:** *Acacia mearnsii*, De Wild., **ACME80**
Synonyms – *Acacia decurrens* (Wendl. F.) Willd. var. *mollis* Lindl.
- Family:** Fabaceae – Pea Family
- Duration/Growth Habit:** Perennial Tree/Shrub
- Common names:** English – black wattle, tan wattle, green wattle
- Origin:** Australia Introduced to Lana'i from California.
- Description:** Trees, 9-15 m tall. Branchlets are angular with fine gray-white hairs (tomentose). Leaves are gray pubescent, pinnate (6-30 pairs), 0.5-5.5 cm long. Leaflets 10-68 pairs, dense, linear, 0.7-6 x 0.4-0.8 mm. Raised glands occur at and between the junction of the leaflet pairs. Heads globe shaped, 6-7 mm diameter arranged in axillary racemes or terminal panicles. Flowers yellowish to white. Legume black, oblong, flat, 5-10 cm x 4-5 mm, pubescent, flattened between seeds. Seeds black, shiny, ovoid.
- Propagation:** Produces numerous viable seeds, resprouts by basal shoots following fire. Aggressive suckering spreads infestations.
- Distribution:** Identified in Hawaii (Hawai'i, Kaho'olawe, Kaua'i, Lana'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu).
- Habitat/Ecology:** Grows in disturbed dry to mesic (moist) habitats up to 4000 feet elevation including riparian areas, coastal scrub, forests, and grasslands. Generates numerous suckers resulting in monotypic thickets.
- Environmental impact:** Highly invasive; aggressive colonizer, canopy closes-in pastures and displaces natives in natural areas. Considered a noxious weed in Hawaii.
- Management:** Physical – Cutting ineffective unless suckers and/or basal bark are treated.
Chemical – Saplings sensitive to triclopyr, dicamba, glyphosate, and picloram applied to cut surfaces. Sensitive to basal bark treatments and to girdling (stripping the bark) combined with chemical applications.
Biological – None known. Unpalatable to grazing animals.

PIER Risk Assessment: High Risk, score: 15

Black wattle - *Acacia mearnsii*



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