

## Mimosa bush (489)

### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. In Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu.
- Important invasive shrub, small tree, forming thickets, impeding mustering and access to water. Thorns prevent recreational activities. Tolerant to range of soil types of different pH. Prefers full sun to shade, low rainfall (but tolerates high if long dry season), resistant to drought and fire. Common in natural and managed grasslands, along creeks and river banks, disturbed areas, cultivated agricultural land.
- Fast growing, up to 7m, thorny. Branches zigzag; leaves yellowish-green, 2-8 'branches', each with 5-20 narrow leaflets. Flowers, yellow, fluffy, 1cm diameter, fragrant, on hairy stalks from leaf forks. Seeds in pith of cigar-shaped brown pods.
- Spread: seeds dispersed by livestock; deliberate introduction for fodder crops, and for scented flowers.
- Biosecurity: fodder species, ornamental, ingredient in perfume.
- Biocontrol: none.
- Cultural control: hand-weed, dig out, slash (follow-up with herbicide). Clean machinery/vehicles; quarantine livestock 1 week between infested and 'clean' pastures. Sheep, goats and camels will eat it.
- Chemical control: in Australia, diuron; metsulfuron-methyl; glufosinate-ammonium; dicamba; tebuthiuron; aminopyralid + metsulfuron-methyl. Minor use permits have been given for: clopyralid; fluroxypyr; and triclopyr.



Photo 1. Thickets of mimosa bush, *Acacia farnesiana* (Hawaii).



Photo 2. Mimosa bush, *Acacia farnesiana*, leaves, flowers and cigar-shaped fruit pods.



Photo 3. Mimosa bush, *Acacia farnesiana*, leaves, flowers and cigar-shaped fruit pods.

### Common Name

Mimosa bush. It is also known as Ellington's curse (Fiji), *huisache* (a Spanish word for 'many thorns'), sweet acacia, cassie flower. CABI prefers *huisache*.

### Scientific Name

*Acacia farnesiana*; it was previously known as *Vachellia farnesiana*, *Acacia minuta*, and *Mimosa farnesiana*. It is a member of the Fabaceae. Note, that Jerusalem thorn is similar, has spines, and is also a member of the Fabaceae (see **Fact Sheet no. 442**).



Photo 4 Mimosa bush, *Acacia farnesiana*, showing leaves, thorns pod, and well-developed thorns.



Photo 5. Mimosa bush, *Acacia farnesiana*, thorns and bark.

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Information from CABI (2019) *Acacia farnesiana* (*huisache*). Crop Protection Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/2236>); and Tahun U, Toran-Purba AV (2020) *Acacia farnesiana* (PROSEA). Pl@ntUse. ([https://uses.plantnet-project.org/en/Acacia\\_farnesiana\\_\(PROSEA\)#--text=in%20the%20Americas.-.A.and%20by%20women%20after%20childbirth](https://uses.plantnet-project.org/en/Acacia_farnesiana_(PROSEA)#--text=in%20the%20Americas.-.A.and%20by%20women%20after%20childbirth)); and from Mimosa bush *Acacia farnesiana* (2020) The State of Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries ([https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/74167/mimosa-bush.pdf](https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/74167/mimosa-bush.pdf)). Photo 1 Forest and Kim Starr, Starr Environmental, Bugwood.org. Photo 2 John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org. Photo 3 Maksim. (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Acaciafarnesiana1web.jpg>). Wikipedia Commons. Photo 4 Margaret R Donald *Vachellia farnesiana*, Tarlee Road, Edgerol, inland, NSW. Photo 5 Don AW Carlson *Acacia farnesiana* Bark (synonym *Acacia minuta*) Phoenix Desert Botanical Gardens.

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