

## Wright Acacia

*Acacia greggii* var. *wrightii*

### Secondary Names:

Wright Catclaw, Una-De-Gato

**Leaf Type:** Semi-evergreen

**Texas Native:**  Yes  No

**Firewise:**  Yes  No



### Tree Description:

This small tree rarely reaches a height of 30 feet or a trunk up to 12" in diameter. The crown consists of numerous spreading branches and branchlets.

### Range/Site Description:

Dry, gravelly mesas, the sides of low canyons, and the banks of mountain streams from the Rio Grande valley westward. Tree reaches its largest size in the Uvalde area.

### Leaf:

The small, compound leaves have 2 to 4 pairs of pinnae, each with 2 to 6 pairs of leaflets. Leaflet size is 0.25" to 0.5" long. Twigs are smooth pale brown or red, usually armed with stout curved prickles or "catclaws."

### Flower:

The fragrant, yellowish-to-white flowers appear during the summer in dense, oblong spikes about an inch long, usually 2 to 3 in a cluster at the end of a branch.

### Fruit:

A flattened pod, often twisted or distorted, 2" to 4" long by about 0.75" wide. The pod narrows between each of the 6 to 8 seeds, which are nearly round, flattened, dark brown and shiny. The pods hang unopened on the branches until the winter or the following spring.

### Bark:

Thin and gray to brown on young stems, then dark and breaking into flattened ridges with age and size.

### Wood:

Wood is heavy, hard, strong, close-grained, durable, and clear brown or red in color. Sometimes used for fenceposts. Flowers produce excellent honey.

### Similar Species:

Gregg acacia (*Acacia greggii* var. *greggii*) has leaflets less than 0.25" long; Roemer acacia (*A. roemeriana*) occurs sporadically in the Hill Country; goldenball leadtree (*Leucaena retusa*) has larger leaflets and occurs in canyons of the Edwards Plateau and westward.