

Acacia mearnsii

Black wattle

Acacia mearnsii DeWild
Syn. *A. decurrens*

Family: Fabaceae

Description: Tall tree, to 150 ft, branched, branches with fine gray hairs. Leaves bipinnate, up to 42 secondary leaf stems in lower leaves, 80 secondary leaf stems in upper leaves, each secondary stem with up to 33 pairs of leaflets, leaflets 0.1 inches long. Flower heads spherical, small, 0.3 inches diameter, corolla bright yellow, flower heads pale yellow. Dark, flat pods, 4 inches long, constricted between seeds. Seeds flattened, 0.2 inches diameter⁽⁷⁰⁾. Long identified as *A. decurrens*, a different species. *Mearnsii*, meaning unknown.

Distribution: Dry to mesic pastures and forests on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Lana'i, Maui, and Hawai'i up to 4000 ft elevation. Common in Kula, Maui, and Kōke'e, Kaua'i. Native to Australia. Introduced into Lana'i from California in 1911⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Prolific seeder, closes-in pastures and displaces natives in natural areas.

Management: Saplings sensitive to foliar applications of triclopyr. Dicamba, glyphosate, and picloram applied cut-surface effective⁽⁴⁵⁾; triclopyr probably effective, although applications to drilled holes is probably necessary in larger trees. Cut-surface (notching) applications of picloram provided complete control, glyphosate and dicamba caused 80% control, and 2,4-D was inadequate



at Kala'e, Moloka'i. Alton Arakaki (Univ. Hawai'i) and Ed Misaki (TNC) confirmed the efficacy of picloram but got much better results with glyphosate and dicamba, each resulting in over 90% control at Kamakou Preserve. Basal bark and stump bark treatments with 2,4-D or triclopyr effective. Pat Bily (TNC) reported that basal bark application with triclopyr ester at 20% in oil was effective, as was cut-stump application of triclopyr amine at 50% in water. HAVO staff got good control with triclopyr amine at 10% in water applied to cut stumps (Chris Zimmer, HAVO). Anecdotes indicate that black wattle is sensitive to basal bark treatment with diesel alone and to girdling (stripping the bark).