**Acacia melanoxylon**

**Blackwood**

Broadly pyramidal evergreen tree with dense canopy, often developing a “cumulus cloud” texture with age as the crown opens. Foliage deep to dull green elliptic to broadly lanceolate phyllodes with several longitudinal veins. Bark grey and smooth when young becoming dark brown to grey, fissured/furrowed and rough. Size may be reduced on drier sites. Successful on well drained soils and sheltered sites with good rainfall although tolerant of dry conditions.

**height x width (m)** 6-30 x 4-15

**origin** Indigenous to Shire of Yarra Ranges, Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia.

**growth rate** Moderate

**flower colour** Cream/pale yellow

**flowering time** Early spring

**shade tolerance** Full sun to part shade

**drought** Moderate tolerance grows satisfactorily with no obvious signs of stress in an average summer.

**low soil oxygen** High tolerance of waterlogged soils, grows well in heavy clays.

**compacted soils** Moderate tolerance, widely planted in urban areas and generally grows satisfactorily.

**pest + disease** Generally not prone to insects that cause obvious damage to foliage, borer damage in trunk and main branches can lead to decline.

**root disturbance** Low tolerance

**advanced** Low incidence of problem from planting out as industry standard, 2m plus container grown trees.

**limb shear** Few if any reports of the shedding of major limbs in urban landscape plantings. Formative pruning can reduce poor structure.

**weed risk** Colonises if areas are cleared

**under powerlines** Very dense or erect canopy form that is poorly suited to training into an open centre under wires.

**habitat value** Indigenous to Shire of Yarra Ranges provides food, nesting sites for birds and possums.