

Golden Acacia Is Spring Beauty



The acacia is another very popular tree seen throughout Santa Cruz county. It is not native. This one was pic-

tured along the Los Gatos highway near the approach to Scotts Valley. The acacia's popularity centers around its brilliant

mass of yellow in the spring. It is a wonderful lawn tree. There are literally hundreds of these trees along the highway.

Colorful Acacia Is Common In County But Australian Native

Editor's note: Here is another in a series of pieces on trees which are grown around Santa Cruz county. This county has one of the largest varieties of trees in the United States.

By Wally Trabing

The acacia (acacia baileyana) is like the weeping willow. It is not native here but it is so common that it seems a part of Santa Cruz county. Yet it comes from "down under," in Australia.

There are anywhere from 50 to 100 species, most of them native born in Australia.

It is a small tree, 15 to 30 feet high. The leaves vary in color from green to a striking gray and the tree is evergreen. There are from 20 to 30 leaflets on each leaf twig.

Its seeds are kept in a thin skinned case shaped like a string bean and the flowers are bright yellow, composed of millions of tiny balls.

Our local acacia seems to be the more gentle of the species. The sweet acacia which grows from Chile thru Central America to Texas, is peppered with thorns as in the cat-claw acacia in Texas. These tear flesh easily.

The sweet acacia, which also grows in France, produces one of the most expensive perfumes made. It is called "Farensiana" which is also the scientific term. The bark on most of the species is thin and runs in color from gray to brown.

Strangely, for such a beautiful and lively tree, the Moham-

edans favor a certain species of the acacia for their cemeteries and use the branches to pin on their doors when announcing a death within.

Another species produces gum Arabic. Six thousand tons were tapped and shipped from trees in French West Africa in one year. This is the basis for chewing gum.

The acacia will be listed as a medicinal tree, for druggists find it useful for some medical compounds, particularly intravenous injections.

Also some species are real axe breakers, with a specific gravity of 1:30. All of the acacia wood is heavy.

Library Lists Gardener Tips

Miss Elizabeth Barnes of the Santa Cruz public library, offers suggestions for garden lovers in this week's book reviews:

"Gardeners All In California," by Albert Wilson, is especially valuable for flower growers in this vicinity.

"How Does Your Garden Grow?" by Albert Wilson emphasizes techniques necessary to the successful raising of things grown by the average gardener.

"Sunset Ideas for Landscaping Your Home" by the editorial staff of Sunset magazine.

"Sunset Patio Book," by Sunset magazine. Good ideas on the planning and building of patios.

"Western Garden Book," by Sunset magazine. Material covers all phases of gardening and floriculture.

Gubser To Tell US Analysis Of Soviet Shakeup

State department analysis of the story behind the recent shakeup in the Kremlin will be related by Congressman Charles S. Gubser, R., Gilroy, during his regular weekly "Report from Washington" over Radio Station KSCO tomorrow at 7 p.m.

Gubser will report on a briefing he and other members of congress received from Mose L. Harvey, director of intelligence research for the USSR and Eastern Europe in the state department. Harvey is regarded as the outstanding expert on Soviet affairs in this country.

During his broadcast, the Gilroy representative also will report on the postal pay raise bill reported out by the house committee on post office and civil service, due to be debated on the floor of the house next week.

Six In County Have Chickenpox

There were six cases of chickenpox reported to county health department for the week ending March 12, according to Dr. Harvey Robins, county health officer.

There were three cases each of tuberculosis and measles and one case each of German measles and syphilis.

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