

Parkinsonia

Woody shrub or small tree with bipinnate leaves with 1-2 pairs of pinnae, the leaflets minute. Flowers yellow, lacking bracteoles. Stamens 10, the filaments free. Pods 30-100mm long, containing 2-5 seeds.

Parkinsonia aculeata

Jerusalem thorn, parkinsonia

Woody shrub or tree to 10m tall, with green spreading branches armed with almost straight spines representing modified leaf rachises. Stipules minute. Leaves usually with one pair of pinnae. Petiole c. 2mm long. Pinnae flattened, green, usually 100-300mm long. Leaflets 2-4mm long, more or less alternately arranged, hairless or sparsely hairy, rounded at the tip.

Inflorescence an axillary raceme 50-200mm long, including the short peduncle. Flowers borne singly each on a c. 10mm pedicel within the axil of a c. Imm deciduous bract. Calyx c. 7mm long, the 5 sepals similar, very sparsely hairy, free. Petals bright yellow, similar, c. 10mm long, hairy towards the base.

Pod 30-100mm long, straight, much indented between the widely separated 2-5 seeds, brown when ripe. Seeds c. 8mm long, 4mm wide, oval, plump, dark brown.

Distribution: Bk., Co., G.N., Lei., Mi., Mo., N.K., P.C., S.K., Wa. Also N.T., W.A., N.S.W., Indonesia. A South American species introduced from the West Indies as a shade and



Parkinsonia aculeata, Ayr, 19°47'S, 147°14'E.

fodder tree and now widely naturalized in north-west Queensland.

Notes: Leaves are eaten by sheep but are not favoured by cattle. May cause weed problems in northern pastures. Produces little forage but has some potential overseas for production of fuel wood. A minor source of pollen for honey bees. Several studies indicate that parkinsonia does not nodulate.

References: 3, 16, 17, 18, 37, 44, 111, 128, 165, 166, 277, 287.

Petalostylis

Shrub, the leaves pinnate, with a terminal leaflet, lacking stipels. Flowers yellow and red. Stamens 5, 3 with curved 5-7mm anthers, 2 with minute staminodes. Style yellow, petal-like, boat-shaped, c. 10mm long, with a c. 5mm green stalk at the base and a minute stigma at the tip. Pod flattened, containing 4-6 seeds. The genus is endemic to Australia.

Petalostylis labichioides

Butterfly bush

Erect or spreading shrub to 2m tall. Stems sparsely to densely covered with minute adpressed hairs. Stipules 2-3mm long, very deciduous. Leaves with 1-27 pairs of usually alternate leaflets and a terminal leaflet. Petiole 3-8mm long, rachis 0-60mm long. Leaflets 3-20mm long, 2-5mm wide, broadest about the mid-point and tapering to each end or broadest above the mid-point and

rounded at the tip or heart-shaped, sparsely hairy.

Flowers single in leaf axils, borne on 10-25mm peduncles or 1-5 in a short raceme, each flower subtended by a pair of 2-3mm bracts. Calyx 10-15mm long, minutely hairy, the sepals free to the base, narrow and pointed. Petals yellow-orange, the dorsal petal with a prominent red ring towards the base, 15-20mm long, c. 15mm wide.

Pod 25-30mm long, 7-8mm wide, flat, hairless and black when ripe, containing 4-6 seeds. Seeds