



**Acacia Nigrescens:** Knob thorn(Eng.), Knoppiesdoring (Afr.), umbambampala (Zulu), Umhlofunga (Siswati), umKhaya (Z,S), mokgalo (Northern Sotho)

### Value and Uses:

Grows in association with *rooigrass* or *Smuts finger grass* and Marula and is an indicator of 'soetveld'. A good furniture wood but difficult to cut. Popular as fencing posts as the wood is hard and durable.

Leaves and pods of the Knob thorn form part of the primary and or secondary diet of elephant, giraffe, kudu, impala, grey-duiker, and steenbok. The pods are favourite of the brown-headed parrot for their unripened seeds.

Leaf secretion washed into soil suppresses seedlings, seeds germinate when last adult dies so most trees in stands are the same age.

*The Knob thorn* flowers are a dietary component for giraffes. Its flowers contain almost three times as much condensed tannin as leaves. Giraffes consume large quantities of flowers resulting in distinct browse lines on the trees.

The wood is drought- and termite-resistant but frost-tender.

The name '*umbambampala*' used for few *Acacia* means 'catches the impala'.

Flowering: August to November

Fruiting: January to June



### Description:

A deciduous tree to 15 (-30) m. Crown rounded to spreading.

Bark dark brown with black prickles on prominent knobs on older branches and trunk.

Flowers in cream to yellowish white spikes up to 100 mm. Leaves twice compound with 2-4 pairs of grey-green pinnae.



### Habitat:

Low-altitude woodland and wooded grassland, especially near or along drainage lines.

Mostly on clay soils.

