



- **Size:** Prickly shrub to 4 m
- **Leaves:** Dark-green leaves. Large number of paired spines along the stems
- **Flowers:** Yellow flowers. Flowers in spring
- **Reproduction:** Seeds, it does not sucker or re-sprout

Kangaroo Thorn, *Acacia paradoxa*

- Wattles with:**
- ◆ Only 1 prominent longitudinal vein
 - ◆ Leaves (Phyllodes) undivided
 - ◆ Spines present at base of each phyllode



- **Size:** Shrub or tree 3–10 m high
- **Bark:** Black brown smooth to fissured
- **Leaves:** Olive green bipinnate and covered in fine hairs, pinnae 7–31 pairs with 16–78 oblong to narrowly oblong leaflet pairs, 1.5–3.5 mm long
- **Flowers:** Pale yellow cream flower in 1-80 headed sprays. Oct - Dec
- **Reproduction:** Seed
- **Similar natives:** Karri Wattle *Acacia pentadenia* (dark green foliage only 2-4 flower heads) *Albizia* (*Paraserianthes lophantha* (darker green foliage, broader leaflets, cylindrical flower heads))
- This plant is now known as one of the worst invasive species in the world. (Wikipedia.)

Mearns Black Wattle, *Acacia mearnsii*

- **Size:** Tall shrub to small tree, 2-15 m high
- **Bark:** Black brown smooth to fissured bark
- **Leaves:** Dark green foliage bipinnate, pinnae, 3-13 pairs, with 15-45 leaflet pairs, 5-15 mm long
- **Flowers:** Golden globular flowers in 10-45 headed sprays, Jul - Sept
- **Reproduction:** Seed and resprouts

Acacia decurrens

Early Black Wattle, Early Green Wattle,

- Wattles with:**
- ◆ Leaves bipinnate (divided into small segments)
 - ◆ Green to dark green foliage

Non Chemical Control

Remove seedlings by hand. Saplings and trees can be cut off 5–15 cm above the ground. Stumps must be cut below any branches and close to the ground as some species may have dormant buds. Felling large trees can result in damage to the native vegetation.

Non chemical control methods are not suitable for wattles that sucker and re-sprout. If you cut suckering species (Silver Wattle and Blackwood) you could induce prolific root suckering.

Chemical Control Methods

Spray the foliage of seedling and juvenile trees to 1 m with a mixture of 100 ml glyphosate, 25 ml Pulse® and 10 litres of water, until wet. For species that are tolerant of glyphosate, use Garlon®, Lontrel® or Starane® at the same rates as glyphosate.

Paint or spray the lower 50 cm of bark at a ratio of 1 litre of Access® to 60 litres of diesel mixture. This method is only suitable for smooth-barked species—Golden Wattle, Cootamundra Wattle, Sydney Golden Wattle and Mearns Black Wattle.

Drill 8–10 mm diameter holes at a downward angle around the base of the tree at 10 cm intervals around the trunk. Inject the holes with 1 ml of Tordon Timber Control® herbicide or glyphosate per 1.5 m of height. (Works well on Sydney Golden Wattle, Green Wattle and Cootamundra wattle. Not as successful for Golden Wattle.)

Note- Chemical control given as a guide only. Always read the label and follow manufacturer's directions. Use chemicals with caution and use appropriate PPE.

What can we do about it?

Join your local land-care group. Find one from the list below or ring your local council for other details.

- Albany Bushcarers
- Denmark Weed Action Group
- Green Skills (Albany or Denmark)
- Esperance Weed Action Group
- Friends of Porongurup Range
- Fitzgerald Biosphere Group
- North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources
- Oyster Harbour Catchment Group
- Ravensthorpe Ag. Initiative Network
- South Coast Natural Resource Management
- The Gillamii Centre
- Torbay Catchment Group
- Wildflower Society (Albany)
- Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee

What else can you do? Ask your local nurseries to stop stocking the weedy Acacias and other potential weeds of the area. Get more info about the plant you are buying. Is it native to this area? Is it a weed anywhere else? Will it become a weed in the South Coast? Please grow local native species.

Disclaimer – All information was compiled in 2020 to the best of the authors knowledge. Details and information can change over time.

Acknowledgement -This document was updated from original pamphlet written by Dr Sally Peltzer and produced by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The original pamphlet was partially funded through South Coast NRM.

All photos copyright Geraldine Janicke

Thanks to:



Other wattles with potential to become weedy

Mountain Hickory, *Acacia penninervis* / *prominens*
 Cedar wattle, *Acacia elata*
 Willow Wattle, *Acacia saliciformis*

Note that some WA species of Acacia can show weed potential when planted outside of their natural area.

- Contact your local Landcare group to find out the species that are local to your area. Plant these instead of Eastern states species.
 - They compete aggressively with native vegetation. Some Wattles are able to create impenetrable thickets threatening native plants. The loss of native plants has a follow-on impact on the native animals, birds and insects that depend upon the local native flora, resulting in the decline of biodiversity.
 - Contact your local Landcare group to find out the species that are local to your area. Plant these instead of Eastern states species.
 - They can be beautiful trees and shrubs however they grow quickly and within 2-5 years produce masses of seed which are spread by birds, animals, insects and flowing water to other areas. Seed can remain dormant for decades.
 - Natural control mechanisms for wattles in their native habitat, such as seed eating insects and diseases, are not common in Western Australia.
 - Fire stimulates mass germination of seeds producing thickets of wattles. Wattles are able to fix nitrogen in the soil, increasing fertility which favours exotic grasses. This results in the area being more fire prone, setting in motion a destructive cycle.
 - They compete aggressively with native vegetation. Some Wattles are able to create impenetrable thickets threatening native plants. The loss of native plants has a follow-on impact on the native animals, birds and insects that depend upon the local native flora, resulting in the decline of biodiversity.
 - Contact your local Landcare group to find out the species that are local to your area. Plant these instead of Eastern states species.
- What is the problem?**
- Wattles from the Eastern states were originally planted in gardens, shelter belts and plantations and have since become major weeds. Plants that invade bushland and threaten native plants by out-competing them are known as environmental weeds.

Watch Out For Weedy Wattles

Naturalised Eastern states wattles (Acacia species) are taking over our bush.

Wattles with:

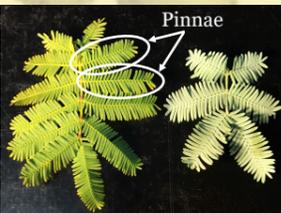
- ◆ Leaves bipinnate (divided into small segments)
- ◆ Silvery or blue-grey foliage

See over for other bipinnate options.

Cootamundra Wattle, *Acacia baileyana*

- **Size:** Shrub or small tree 3-10m
- **Bark:** Smooth grey to brown
- **Leaves:** Silvery to blue-grey, bipinnate, pinnae 2-6 pairs with 8-25 oblong leaflet pairs, 5-8mm long
- **Flowers:** Golden globular flowers in 8 – 30 headed sprays, Aug – Nov

- **Reproduction:** Seed only, does not sucker or re-sprout



Mudgee Wattle, *Acacia spectabilis*

- **Size:** Erect or spreading shrub 1.5 - 5 m high
- **Bark:** Silvery grey smooth bark
- **Leaves:** Grey green, silvery bipinnate pinnae 2-6 pairs with 4-8 pairs of oblong to oblanceolate leaflet pairs, 7-16 mm long
- **Flowers:** Golden globular flower heads in sprays of 2-20 heads on short thick stalks. Aug - Oct



Silver Wattle, *Acacia dealbata*

- **Size:** Medium-sized tree to 30 m
- **Bark:** Grey brown smooth, rough with age
- **Leaves:** Blue-grey to silvery when young, bipinnate, pinnae 6-30 pairs with 10-68 leaflet pairs, 1.5-5 mm long
- **Flowers:** Pale yellow globular flower clusters in 10-40 headed sprays. Jul – Nov
- **Reproduction:** Seed, suckers from roots and re-sprouts
- **Similar native:** *Albizia (Paraserianthes) lophantha* (darker green foliage, broader leaflets, cylindric flower heads)



Wattles with:

- ◆ Leaves (Phyllodes) undivided
- ◆ Only 1 prominent longitudinal vein
- ◆ Silvery foliage

Queensland Silver Wattle, *Acacia podalyriifolia*

- **Size:** Shrub or small tree 2-6 m
- **Bark:** Grey smooth to finely fissured bark
- **Leaves:** Silvery broad oblong phyllodes with one prominent non-central midrib
- **Flowers:** Golden globular flower heads in 10-20 headed sprays. Jul - Sep
- **Reproduction:** Seed only



Wattles with:

- ◆ Leaves (Phyllodes) undivided
- ◆ Only 1 prominent longitudinal vein
- ◆ Green to dark green foliage

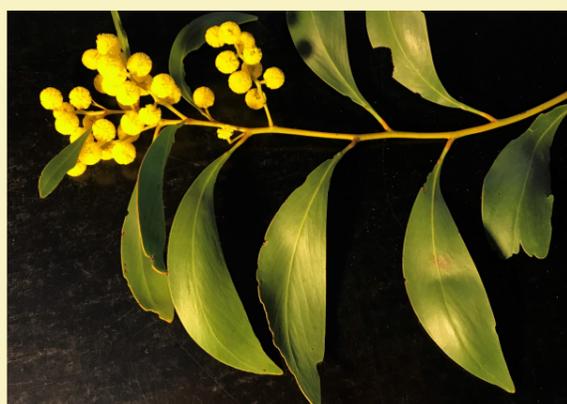
Flinders Range Wattle, Willow-leaved Wattle, *Acacia iteaphylla*

- **Size:** Spreading shrub or small tree 2-5 m
- **Bark:** Smooth greenish to brown bark
- **Leaves:** Silvery blue-green narrow phyllodes 5-14 cm long
- **Flowers:** Pale yellow flowers in 8-16 headed sprays. Flower buds enclosed by overlapping pale brown-tipped bracts. Oct - Dec
- **Reproduction:** Seed only



Golden Wattle, *Acacia pycnantha*

- **Size:** Shrub or small tree, 3-8 m
- **Bark:** Dark brown to grey smooth bark
- **Leaves:** Dark green drooping phyllodes 6-20 cm long and 5-50 mm wide with one prominent non-central midrib, curved with a blunt tip
- **Flowers:** Golden globular flower heads in sprays of 4–23 heads on short thick stalks. Aug - Oct
- **Reproduction:** Seed and resprouts
- **Similar native:** Golden Wreath Wattle *Acacia saligna* has narrower phyllodes on short leaf stalks, shorter sprays of 2-10 heads on long slender stalks.

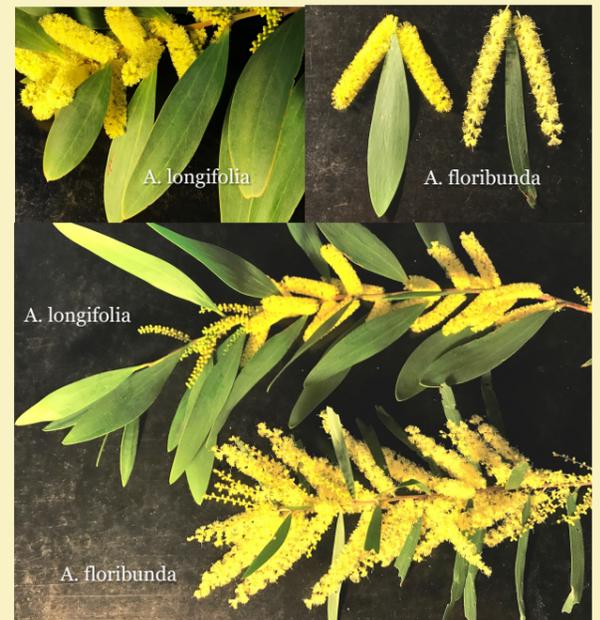


Wattles with:

- ◆ Leaves (Phyllodes) undivided
- ◆ More than 1 prominent longitudinal vein
- ◆ Green to dark green foliage

Sydney Golden Wattle, *Acacia longifolia*

- **Size:** Tall shrub to small tree to 7 m
- **Bark:** Dark grey bark
- **Leaves:** Dark green phyllodes with 2-4 veins, up to 18cm long and 3cm wide
- **Flowers:** A pair of golden yellow elongated cylindrical spikes 2-5 cm long, at the base of each phyllode. Jul - Oct
- **Reproduction:** Seed, occasionally resprouts
- **Similar native:** Myrtle Wattle *Acacia myrtifolia* (broader phyllodes with single vein, reddish young shoots, flower heads 2-5 flowers.)



White Sally Wattle, *Acacia floribunda*

- **Size:** Erect or spreading shrub 3 –8 m
- **Bark:** Smooth grey with paler mottles
- **Leaves:** Narrow green phyllodes with 2-3 prominent veins up to 19 cm long and 1.5-12 mm wide
- **Flowers:** Small pale yellow or whitish flowers in loose cylindrical spike 2-8 cm long, at the base of each phyllode. Aug - Oct



- **Reproduction:** Seed, suckers and resprouts
- **Similar Native:** Myrtle Wattle *Acacia myrtifolia* (broader phyllodes with single vein, reddish young shoots, flower heads 2-5 flowers)

Blackwood, *Acacia melanoxylon*

- **Size:** Erect or spreading tree 6–30 m high
- **Bark:** Dark grey fissured bark
- **Leaves:** Dark green long phyllodes asymmetrical 4–16 cm long, 7–30 mm wide with 3-5 veins
- **Flowers:** Globular pale yellow, cream or whitish flower heads in short sprays of 2-8 heads. Sept - Nov
- **Reproduction:** Seed, suckers, resprouter
- **Similar native:** Coastal Wattle *Acacia cyclops* (similar seed and phyllodes, flowers 2 golden yellow heads per axil.)

