

JR FACT FILE



GOLDEN WATTLE

Acacia pycnantha



AT A GLANCE

Size:

Grows as a shrub, or small tree four to ten metres tall.

Distribution:

Widespread throughout south eastern Australia.

What Is the Golden Wattle?

Acacia trees are more commonly known as wattles. There are more than 900 species of acacia in Australia. The Golden Wattle with its bright yellow and green foliage was proclaimed Australia's national floral emblem in August 1988.

In 1912, on the recommendation of Prime Minister Andrew Fisher, wattle was included as the decoration surrounding the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, and has also been used in the design of Australian stamps.

Where Do Golden Wattles Grow?

Golden Wattle grows beneath larger trees in Australian forests, woodlands and in scrub throughout South

Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. The Golden Wattle prefers temperate regions with moderate rainfall.

They are fast growing and are good colonisers (which means they are good at growing in disturbed or freshly cleared soil). Golden Wattle regenerates easily after fires. Generally the fire kills the parent plants but if rain follows soon afterwards, it stimulates germination of seeds stored in the soil.

Other Interesting Facts about Golden Wattles:

After the plant reaches seedling stage, true leaves are absent, and are replaced by phyllodes. The leathery phyllodes are 6-20 centimetres long, sickle-shaped and bright green in colour.

In spring large fluffy golden-yellow flower-heads with up to eighty small sweetly scented flowers provide a bright contrast to the foliage. The dark brown mature fruit, 7 to 12 centimetres long, splits along one side to release the seeds.

Golden Wattle has been exported from Australia and has been grown in other countries for tan bark production, perfume making and as an ornamental plant.

Want to Know More?

www.anbg.gov.au/emblems/aust_emblem.html