

Non-chemical control methods

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. If you cut suckering species (Silver Wattle and Blackwood) you will probably induce prolific root suckering.

Chemical control methods

- Spray the foliage of seedling and juvenile trees to 1 m with 100 ml glyphosate plus 25 ml Pulse[®] per 10 litres of water until wet. For species that are tolerant of glyphosate, use Carlton[®], Lontrel[®] or Starane[®] at the same rates of glyphosate.
- Paint or spray the lower 50 cm of bark with a mixture of 1 litre of Access[®] in 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 intervals. 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.

Follow up with the control of weed regrowth each year.

What can we do about it?

- Join your local Weed Action Network. Here is a list of contacts. Find one in your area or ring your local council for other details.

Albany Bushcarers –
Val Davies (0428 276 792)
Wildflower Society (Albany) –
Peter Stewart (9842 5121)
City of Albany –
Mark Ford (9841 9253)
Denmark Weed Action Group –
(9848 2889)
Esperance Weed Action Group –
Coral Turley (9083 2100)
Friends of Porongurups –
Lisa Braun (9853 2171)
Tambellup Weed Group –
Murray Beaumont (9825 8236)
Fitzgerald Biosphere, South Coast NRM –
Natasha Moore (9835 5059)
Bremer Townscape –
Priscilla Broadbent (9837 4004)

- Be careful what you buy from the nurseries. Ask your nursery 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? Grow native. Some local alternatives are *Acacia drummondii* (Drummond's Wattle) (less than 1 m), *Acacia hastulata* (0.5–2 m) and *Acacia pentadenia* (Karri Wattle) (2–5 m).
- Ask your local nursery to stop stocking the weedy acacias and other potential weeds of the area.

Written by Dr Sally Peltzer
Photos (copyright) by Bruce Maslin (BM) and Penny Hussey (PH) from the Department of Environment and Conservation and J Plaza (JP) from the NSW Herbarium (authorised by Dr Brett Summerell, Botanic Gardens Trust).



Watch out for Weedy Wattles

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

Wattles from the eastern states were originally planted in gardens, shelter belts and plantations and have since become major weeds.

What is the problem?

These wattles are fast-growing and produce masses of seed which remain dormant for many years. They set seed within 2-5 years. They fix nitrogen in the soil, increasing fertility and ultimately crowding out native species.



Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*).

Australia's national emblem. Tree 8 m with smooth dark-brown to grey bark and broad dark green 'leaves'. Flowers in spring and re-sprouts when felled. (BM)



Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*).

Shrub or tree 10-30 m. Grey bark, white branches and silver feathery leaves. Flowers late winter to spring. Suckers from root and re-sprouts when felled. (BM)



Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*).

Spreading tree, 8-30 m. Hard furrowed, dark grey bark, dark green foliage and pale yellow flowers. Flowers late winter to spring. Suckers from roots and re-sprouts when felled. (PH)



Green or Early Black Wattle (*Acacia decurrens*).

Small to medium tree 10-15 m. Black fissured bark and bright-green feathery leaves. Flowers late winter to spring. Re-sprouts when felled. (BM)



Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*).

Small tree to 10 m. Dark grey bark and green 'leaves' with 2-3 veins running longitudinally. Flowers late winter to early spring. Does not sucker or re-sprout. (PH)



Queensland Silver Wattle (*Acacia podalyrifolia*).

Small tree to 5 m. Smooth grey bark, white young twigs, silvery white 'leaves'. Flowers late winter to early spring. Does not sucker or re-sprout. (BM)



Flinders Range Wattle (*Acacia iteaphylla*).

Dense large spreading shrub to 5 m. Grey-green 'leaves' to 14 cm. Flowers autumn to winter. Does not sucker or re-sprout. (BM)



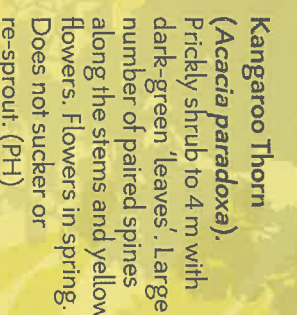
Mearns Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*).

Small tree to 10 m with mid-green leaves and smooth bark. Flowers in summer. Does not sucker or re-sprout. (JP)



Cootamundra Wattle (*Acacia baileyana*).

Medium tree to 10 m. Smooth brown bark and delicate-looking, silvery or blue-grey leaves to 5 cm. Flowers late winter to spring. Does not sucker or re-sprout. (PH)



Kangaroo Thorn (*Acacia paradoxa*).

Prickly shrub to 4 m with dark-green 'leaves'. Large number of paired spines along the stems and yellow flowers. Flowers in spring. Does not sucker or re-sprout. (PH)



These wattles can be easily confused with native wattles. Get your wattle identified by your agricultural department or botanist before control.