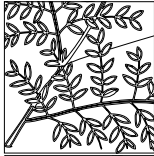


Acacias have either:

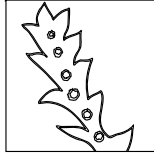
* fern-like leaves (pinnate or bi-pinnate true leaves)



* flattened leaf stalks (phyllodes) as leaves



* leafless flowering branches



Phyllodes and leafless flowering branches are examples of how plants have adapted to control water loss.

Popularity of acacias

- * Birds find thorny foliage ideal protection for nests
- * Through the ages acacia species have been used for food, building materials, gums, dyes, tannins and land reclamation.
- * Acacias are 'opportunists' - they generally flower June to September but will also flower after good rains.

Acacias are generally under-storey plants. They are referred to as 'primary' plants for they are often first to appear after fire, erosion etc, creating favourable conditions for the longer lived 'secondary' plants.

Australia's floral emblem is the golden wattle, *Acacia pycnantha*, and Myall Park was named after the Weeping Myall, *Acacia pendula*, often observed near waterways.

What is an acacia?

Typical Australian acacias:

- * are fast growing, short lived trees or shrubs
- * have yellow flowers in clusters of balls or rods
- * release hard black, fire-resistant seeds from coiled, flat or cylindrical pods

But some:

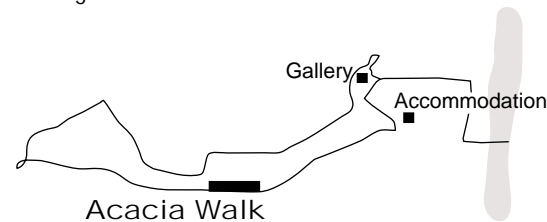
- * are long lived (*Acacia catenulata* - Bendee; *Acacia aneura* - Mulga)
- * have almost white or red flowers
- * release soft brown seeds which are destroyed by fire (*Acacia harpophylla* - Brigalow)

Acacia means sharp.

The first species named in ancient times from the Mediterranean region had sharp-pointed leaves.

Acacia is currently under consideration for a name change. It is proposed that Australian species retain the genus name Acacia while all other species are to be referred to as *Racosperma*.

Australia has over 1100 acacia species, many of which grow in our Garden.



Myall Park Botanic Garden is owned and managed by a Board of honorary Directors.
Would you like to help us? Telephone 07 4665 6705
www.myallparkbotanicgarden.org.au

Acacia Walk

Splashing gold throughout the bush, acacias (wattles) join eucalypts as Australia's signature plants



Facing the Acacia Walk sign, turn right and head for the sign across the road.

1. *Acacia wardellii* (Wardell's wattle) **Rare**

- * Distinguishing flat broad phyllodes with glands on the upper margin
- * White to greying narrow straight trunk
- * Short lived plant from Thomby Range and east of Dunkeld, Maranoa district, Queensland

2. *Acacia grandifolia* (Grand wattle) **Vulnerable**

- * 'grandis' = large and handsome; 'folia' = leaves
- * Flower heads are long, bright yellow rods
- * Burnett district, Queensland

3. *Acacia pubifolia* (Hairy wattle)

- * Hairy phyllodes and seed pods
- * Young branches mealy white
- * Yellow rod flower heads September to December
- * Restricted to gravelly soils in Stanthorpe area, Queensland

4. *Acacia barattensis* (Baratta wattle) **Rare**

- * Small to medium shrub
- * Long, narrow, sticky phyllodes
- * Pale yellow ball flower heads
- * Until recently thought to be extinct
- * Flinders Ranges, South Australia

5. *Acacia oldfieldii* (Oldfield's wattle) **Rare**

- * Openly branched shrub to tree up to 5m tall
- * Phyllodes long, narrow; new growth citron yellow
- * Bright golden rod flower heads
- * Coastal areas from Geraldton to Kalbarri, Western Australia

Vulnerable = At risk of disappearing from the wild within the next 20 to 50 years
Rare = Not in danger in the foreseeable future but population in the wild is small

6. *Acacia rhigiophylla* (Dagger-leaf wattle) **Rare**

- * Prickly spreading shrub; phyllodes often triangular
- * Small deep yellow rod flower heads September to October
- * Found only in limited locations in South Australia and New South Wales

7. Another specimen of *Acacia grandifolia* (note 2)

8. *Acacia aprepta* (Bibble)

- * Long thin phyllodes with hooked tips
- * Small yellow rod flower heads in summer
- * Very common shrub/small tree restricted to western Darling Downs (Qld)

9. *Acacia gnidium* **Rare**

- * Spreading fragrant shrub; broad phyllode form
- * Golden ball flower heads
- * From rugged sandstone country in central Queensland

10. *Acacia jennerae* (Coonavittra wattle)

- * This is a juvenile clump
- * Showy racemes of ball flowers March to July
- * Widespread species

11. *Acacia semilunata* (Moon wattle)

- * Species name refers to half-moon shaped phyllodes.
- * Bright yellow ball flower heads July to September
- * Planted in 2004 by Glenmorgan school children
- * Locally occurring on sandy soils in the Miles district

12. Another specimen of *Acacia oldfieldii* (note 6)

13. *Acacia papyrocarpa* (Western myall)

- * Name means 'papery fruit'. Are any present on the bush?
- * Lime tolerant
- * Golden yellow ball flower heads generally August to November
- * Long lived, semi-arid species from South Australia and Western Australia

14. *Acacia rhodophloia* (Minnaritchie)

- * The bark is sensitive to touch; please don't harm it
- * The bark is commonly known as 'cat-scratch' or 'minnaritchie'. This adaptation helps keep the sap cool and reduces moisture loss.
- * Small yellow ball flower heads in early summer
- * One of a group of minnaritchie wattles from western Queensland

15. *Acacia dempsteri* (Dempster's wattle) **Rare**

- * A clump of plants with red trunks, short prickly leaves and long spines (lost as the plant gets taller)
- * Favourite site for small birds. Can you see any nests? What type of birds, do you think?
- * Bright yellow ball flower heads in spring
- * Our Garden appears to suit this species – many new seedlings present in this clump
- * Native to Western Australia

16. Another specimen of *Acacia gnidium* (note 9)

As you walk, look left down the avenue of *Angophora leiocarpa*. Walk past *Eucalyptus gracilis*

17. *Acacia concurrens* (Centre point wattle)

- * Bright yellow flower heads in rods
- * Hardy useful ornamental. Prefers full sun
- * Coastal northern New South Wales and southern Queensland

