

Information Sheet

This information aims to assist Shire of Harvey residents with the identification and control of Eastern States Wattles on their property. Working together, we can reduce the risk of Woody Wattles spreading through our local bushland.

Eastern States or Woody Wattles (Acacia species), are not native to WA, and cause much environmental degradation.

Eastern States wattles were originally planted in gardens, shelter belts and plantations. Because they grow fast and outcompete native species, they are now actively growing in bushland. Some are spreading through local government areas neighbouring the Shire of Harvey.

The species of most concern are:

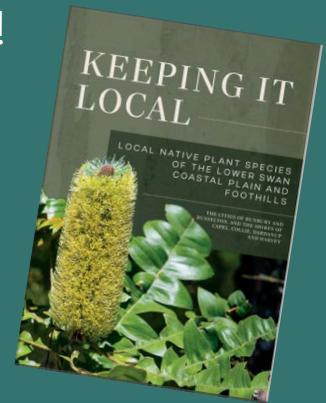
- Acacia iteaphylla (Flinders Range Wattle)
- Acacia longifolia (Sydney Golden Wattle)
- Acacia baileyana (Cootamundra Wattle)
- Acacia dealbata (Silver Wattle)
- Acacia pycnantha (Golden Wattle)
- Acacia decurrens (Early Black Wattle)
- Acacia podalyriifolia (Queensland Silver Wattle)
- Acacia paradoxa (Kangaroo thorn)
- Acacia mearnsii (Mearns Black Wattle)

Not all wattles are weeds!

Please check the booklet "Keeping It Local" to identify local native wattle or Acacia plants.

The booklet is available:

- Online - [View here](#)
- At Harvey and Australind libraries and Shire Administration offices



Where practical, we encourage you to plant local native plants in place of the removed weeds.

What are the main issues?

- Wattles are fast growing and outcompete local native flora for water, light and nutrients
- They produce 1000s of seeds per year. WA does not have enough local seed-eating insects to naturally manage wattle numbers
- Seeds may remain dormant but generally set within 2 – 5 years
- They spread easily from gardens to bushland and disrupt local ecosystems and affect local species habitat
- Wattle seeds survive in the soil for decades
- The trees are highly flammable and increase fuel loads. Fire promotes faster seed germination
- They fix nitrogen: an advantage when invading disturbed and bare areas
- They form dense monoculture thickets
- Woody wattles are difficult to eradicate.

Further Information

This information focuses on weedy wattle species. Please refer to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) website [Pests, weeds and diseases](#) | [Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development](#), for further information about pests, weeds and diseases that pose a serious risk to Western Australia.

If further information or assistance to identify wattles is required, please contact the Shire's Environmental Officer on 9729 0300.

Managing Eastern States Wattles | Handy Guide

When to remove Wattles

The best time is **right now**.

Wattles can be removed all year round (especially if you see younger plants), but care should be taken not to spread the seeds. Autumn and winter are the best seasons to remove larger weedy wattles, as they usually do not have seed on them so there is less risk of spreading the seed around.

How to remove Wattles

Small seedlings can be hand pulled or dug out of the ground.

Mature plants should be cut off close to the ground using secateurs, loppers, garden saw, chainsaw, or axe (depending on the thickness of the base of the trunk). Then immediately paint herbicide (such as 50% glyphosate solution) on the exposed surface of the stump to kill the trunk and root system.

How to dispose of woody weed material

Depending on the size of your property, time of year and the amount of weedy material you wish to dispose of the following options are available:

- Take the material to the Shire's Waste Transfer Stations (Richardson Road and Stanley Road, Landfill Site) using your resident entry pass. Please ensure the seed does not spread when transferring the material. Use a tarp or bags to transfer the material if weed seed is present.
- Burn the disposed weed material as garden refuse, depending on the time of year and current burning period. Make sure the dead weed material is dry (and no longer green) before burning. Keep the size of the piles manageable and well clear of any other vegetation due to the high flammability of wattle material.
- Chip or mulch the material - but only if there is no seed on the plants.

Further Information

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Flora base website ([Florabase—the Western Australian flora](#)) details management notes of each acacia species. This includes:

- Information on general biology
- A suggested method and timing for species management and control.

Know your weeds

Acacia iteaphylla
(Flinders Range Wattle)



Shrub, 2-5 m high, leaves silvery blue green.
Flower: Yellow, March to September.
Origin: South Australia

Acacia longifolia (Sydney Golden Wattle)



Shrub or tree, 0.2-10 m high.
Flower: Yellow, July to September.
Toxicity: Cyanides in the leaves can lead to stock poisoning.
Origin: Eastern Australia

Acacia baileyana
(Cootamundra Wattle)



Tree or shrub, 3-10 m high, leaves silvery.
Flower: Yellow, June to September.
Origin: New South Wales

Acacia dealbata
(Silver Wattle)



Tree or shrub, 1.5-30 m high, bark smooth grey, brown, deeply corrugated
When old: Glaucous leaves.
Flower: Yellow, August to October.
Origin: Southeastern Australia

Acacia pycnantha
(Golden Wattle)



Australia's floral emblem. A loosely branched shrub or small tree, 2- 8m high with dark brown to grey smooth bark and dark green foliage.
Flower: Yellow, August to October.
Origin: Eastern Australia

Acacia mearnsii
(Mearns Black Wattle)



Small, spreading tree, 3-16m high, bark blackish and rough on main trunks.
Flowers: Yellow, October to December.
Origin: Southeastern Australia.

Acacia podalyriifolia
(Queensland Silver Wattle)



Spreading tree, to 7 m high.
Flower: Yellow, May to August.
Origin: Eastern Australia

Acacia paradoxa
(Kangaroo thorn)



Straggly to compact, prickly shrub or tree, 1- 4m high.
Flower: Yellow, July to October.
Origin: Eastern Australia

Acacia decurrens (Early Black Wattle)



Tree, 2-10 m high.
Flower: Yellow, July to September.
Origin: Eastern Australia

Nurseries

Please be careful with nursery purchases.

Ask if it is local to the native area, or if it is a weed locally or anywhere else.
Ask your local nursey to not stock weedy Acacias.

Acacia Mearnsii (Mearns Black Wattle)



Contact Shire of Harvey:

📞 08 9729 0300

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🌐 www.harvey.wa.gov.au