

What is Flinders Range Wattle?

Flinders Range Wattle, or *Acacia iteaphylla*, is a medium sized tree which is native to South Australia. It has been widely used in WA as a quick growing screening plant.

Why is Flinders Range Wattle a problem?

Flinders Range Wattle, along with a variety of eastern states species has been widely recognised as an environmental weed in WA. This species has the ability to become colonised on road sides and invade bushland areas. The problem with this is that they can displace native species and reduce biodiversity. Often stands of this weed have no undertorey as other species are completely shaded out. Flinders Range wattle produces a high volume of highly viable seed each year that can remain dormant in the soil for many years.

Control:

Always control weeds while they are actively growing and healthy. Flinders Range Wattle should be controlled before seed set to reduce the chance of spreading seed.

Flinders Range Wattle can be controlled by the cut and paint method. This involves simply cutting the main stem (trunk) close to the ground and painting immediately with a 50% glyphosate mix. Take care not to cause damage to other plants.

Follow up control will be required for several years as new seedlings emerge, to effectively control this weed. Small seedlings can be easily pulled out by hand.

The Mundaring Shire has been targeting woody weeds across the region, including Flinders Range Wattle. The Shire will continue to conduct control programs for this weed in the course of its bushland restoration works.

Replacement Planting:

Replacement plants are available free to residents through the Mundaring Shire's Tree Canopy and Understorey program. The following species are suggested replacement plants as they have similar screening properties to the Flinders Range Wattle.



Mouse Ears
Calothamnus rupestris pictured left,

one-sided bottlebrush *Calothamnus quadrifidus*, shown right,



Honey Bush *Hakea lissocarpha*, pictured below



and two-leaf hakea, *Hakea trifurcata* shown right.



Alternatively, if you simply enjoy the soft yellow blossom, a local alternative is the Glowing Wattle *Acacia celastrifolia*, shown below.



Planting a mixture of the above species will provide a long term screen and suppress weeds. These species have the added advantage of attracting birds and providing food and habitat for local native animals.

How you can help:

1. **Replace Flinders Range Wattle plants** in your garden or on your verge with more appropriate local native species. Mundaring Shire can provide residents with **free plants** for your garden or verge, through the Tree Canopy and Understorey Program. Applications open in February. To register your interest in this program download the registration form from the website, at www.mundaring.wa.gov.au, or pick one up from your local library.
2. **Remove new Flinders Range Wattle seedlings** as you find them, being sure to remove all rootstock. Dispose of the plants properly, taking care not to spread seed.
3. **Join a local “friends of group”** to help reduce the impact of this weed on your local bushland area.

For more information contact the Mundaring Shire Bushcare Coordinator Alison Dugand on 9290 6685



Flinders Range Wattle

Acacia iteaphylla



Replacement Program

