

Removing Eastern States Wattles



Weedy wattles from the Eastern States can replace our native plants and increase bushfire risk. We encourage local residents to identify and remove Eastern States weedy wattles (acacia species) on their property.

The Shire is actively removing weedy wattles from reserves, verges and other public land, but community action is also needed. By removing these invasive species from private properties, we can help protect local biodiversity, reduce fuel loads and prevent further spread.

Why remove weedy wattles?

- » They out compete local native plants for water, sunlight and nutrients.
- » They reduce habitat and food sources for native wildlife.
- » They produce large quantities of seed, allowing them to spread quickly.
- » They increase fuel loads and can contribute to bushfire intensity.
- » Fire stimulates seed germination, helping infestations spread after bushfires.
- » They can rapidly invade disturbed areas due to their ability to improve soil nitrogen levels.

When should they be removed?

As soon as possible. Young plants are easiest to control before they produce seeds. Autumn and winter are generally the best times for removal, as there is less risk of spreading seeds. Take care when removing mature plants to avoid further spread.

How do I remove and manage weedy wattles?

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

Common Weedy Wattles

Golden Wattle

(*Acacia pycnantha*)

Australia's floral emblem. A loosely branched shrub or tree 3-8m high with dark brown to grey smooth bark and dark green foliage. Adult leaves are called phyllodes. Juvenile leaves are bipinnate (leaflets themselves divided into smaller leaflets).

Flowers: August to October

Native to: Eastern Australia



Flinders Range Wattle

(*Acacia iteaphylla*)

A dense, hairless shrub 2-5m high with smooth, greenish bark, weeping branches and grey-green foliage. Adult leaves are called phyllodes.

Flowers: April to September

Native to: South Australia



Sydney Golden Wattle

(*Acacia longifolia*)

A shrub or small tree to 1.5-10m high, with dark grey, finely fissured bark and green foliage. It looks similar to the local native *Acacia saligna* wattle, but can be identified by the parallel veins in its leaves.

Flowers: July to September

Native to: NSW & Victoria



Cootamundra Wattle

(*Acacia baileyana*)

A bushy shrub or small tree, 3-10m high with smooth grey to brown bark and silvery to blue-grey foliage. Adult leaves are bipinnate (leaflets themselves divided into smaller leaflets).

Flowers: June to September

Native to: NSW



Common Weedy Wattles

Early Black Wattle (*Acacia decurrens*)

An erect, shrub or small tree to 10m high with black or brown often fissured bark and dark green foliage. Adult leaves are bipinnate (leaflets themselves divided into smaller leaflets).

Flowers: July to October

Native to: NSW



Queensland Silver Wattle (*Acacia podalyriifolia*)

A bushy shrub or small tree 2-7m high with grey smooth to finely fissured bark, branchlets which are white and usually velvety-hairy and silvery foliage. Adult leaves are called phyllodes.

Flowers: May to July

Native to: NSW & QLD



Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*)

A large shrub or small tree, 4 to 10m high, with silvery, hairy upper branchlets and grey to brown smooth bark that may become rough with age. The leaves are bipinnate (leaflets divided into smaller leaflets), blue-grey to silvery, and covered in tiny hairs.

Flowers: July to November

Native to: NSW, Vic & Tas



Gossamer Wattle (*Acacia floribunda*)

Tree or shrub, 3-8m high with green leaves. Adult leaves are called phyllodes and are thin and mostly pliable.

Flowers: Aug to Oct

Native to: NSW, QLD & Vic



If in doubt, don't pull it *out*

If you need assistance identifying which vegetations are native, contact the Shire's Environmental Service team on 9290 6651 or shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au.

Local Native Wattles

Not all wattles are weeds! Refer to the following free resources to help identify local native wattle or 'acacia' plants. These booklets are available from the Shire website (Environmental Services section) or printed copies can be picked up from the Administration Building. The libraries will often have some copies available too.

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

- » Darlington & Surrounds Local Flora and Bushlands (Cliff & Sharron Burns)
- » Shire's Landscape & Revegetation Guidelines

Other Weeds

This information sheet only focuses on weedy wattle species. Please refer to the Shire's Plants out of Place Weeds booklet for information on other common weeds in the Shire and recommended removal methods.

Printed versions of this free booklet are available from the Shire Administration Building, or you can find it within the Environmental Services section of the Shire website.

Where do I 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 (Coppin Road Mundaring or Mathieson Road Chidlow) 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.
- » You may choose to burn the disposed weed material with the rest of your garden refuse, depending on the time of year and current burning period. Refer to the Shire website and Fire & Burning Information Booklet for more information. 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.