

Botanical Name: Acacia
Common Name: Wattle
Family: Fabaceae
Origin: Australia and Africa
Habit: various habitats
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I like to turn to **PlantNET-FloraOnline** to learn more about plants. Here you will find a wealth of information about plants, their growing habits and distribution. Much can be learnt from Latin names given, plus the variety of common names attributed to each plant.

A more familiar name for Acacia is Wattle - Australia's floral emblem, in this case *Acacia pycantha*, Golden Wattle, which is native to South Eastern Australia.



We have beautiful wattles in our region, most of which are coming into flower now. Mullumbimby is famous for the rare *Acacia bakeri*, (Marblewood), a rainforest species. It is found on the banks of the Brunswick River, with insignificant white flowers, hidden in glossy leaves. Searches through several

websites confirm my fears that many Acacias are considered as needing 'environmental management' - meaning they have weed potential. But who could find a field of beautiful Queensland Silver Wattle an unpleasant sight? Negatively they are 'seeders', and positively, they are nitrogen fixers.



Managing the four species in my garden is a pleasure. My pride and joy is an *Acacia macradenia*, or Zig Zag wattle because its phyllodes (leaves) are arranged in that manner along weeping branches. It's about to flower for the 6th year. Motorists stop to photograph it as it is such a sight. I prune it hard each year.



My rear raised garden bed holds 3 different species. The well-known Queensland Silver Wattle, or Mt Morgan wattle (*Acacia podalyriifolia*) is now flowering. The colour combination of silver foliage and lemon flower balls is appealing. Adjacent is a Marblewood, potentially a giant, but grown out of respect for the tree's heritage.



The fourth shrub is a Prickly Moses, *Acacia ulicifolia*. It's an excellent bird refuge, and will probably be a nice feature shrub, apart from its prickles.



Several other local species are flowering on the highway to Brisbane, such as *Acacia melanoxylon* (better known as Sally Wattle), and *Acacia fimbriata* (Fringed Wattle, picture adjacent), a very delicate and floriferous smallish tree, available in tubes from rainforest nurseries.

We have planted several other species in Heritage Park and are looking to expand on this collection.