

Acacia longifolia – Sydney Golden Wattle

Family:

Fabaceae - Mimosoideae

Distribution:

NSW/Qld border south into Vic chiefly in coastal areas across a wide variety of vegetation communities. In HSC; Community O (107.9ha), TI (295 ha), L (837.3 ha), A (5579.4 ha) and SF1 (4.6ha) chiefly.

Common Name:

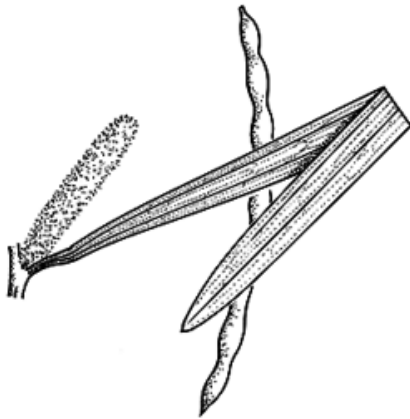
Sydney Golden Wattle

Derivation of Name:

Acacia; Greek, derivative from the name *akakia* referring to a wattle on the Nile River in Egypt with thorns. **longifolia**; Latin, a reference to the generally long leaves.

Conservation Status:

Widespread in HSC where there has been recent fires, from heath to tall forest.



Description:

Large shrub to small tree up to 6-8m in height, more often grows as a large wide bushy shrub. Bark is smooth and greyish in colour. Flowering occurs very heavily from early winter through early spring with bright yellow rod shaped flowers in abundance. The foliage (phyllodes) are up to 20mm in width, 5-20cm in length. Long narrow drooping seed pods follow.

Longevity:

Approximately 10 to 20 years, with some references stating more; longevity dependant on speed of growth. Killed by fire in the wild. Long lived soil seed bank.

Horticultural Merit and uses:

Highly attractive small tree or large rounded shrub. Striking flower display in late winter when nearly the entire plant is covered in flowers. Tolerates a range of soils provided they are not overly alkaline. Grows best in full sun, may get a bit thin and stretched in shaded conditions. Frost tolerant. Borers may be an issue in older trees. Other useful applications include erosion control and windbreaks, it is a low maintenance plant. This species is a nitrogen fixer.

Fauna Value:

Heavy flowering provides resources for a wide range of invertebrates, particularly bees. Seed pods and seeds are eaten by parrots. Older plants attract wood boring insects.



