

Gold-dust Wattle

Acacia acinacea



Description:

Spindly shrub: up to 2m. Leaves stalkless and small. Flowers in winter to spring. Pods curved or coiled.

Cultivation:

Adapts to most soils. If in garden, occasional tip pruning promotes bushy growth, whilst heavy pruning promotes suckering.

Special Notes:

Found in woodlands and open forests. Fixes nitrogen.

Hakea Wattle

Acacia hakeaoides



Description:

Large wide shrub: up to 3m high and 7m across. Leaves narrow and blunt-ended. Flowers in winter to early spring. Pods constricted between seeds.

Cultivation:

Commonly found on loams but will grow on a wide variety of soils.

Special Notes:

Found in woodlands and open forests. Fixes nitrogen.

Mallee Wattle

Acacia montana



Description:

Dense and rounded shrub: up to 4m. Leaves straight-edged and rounded at tip, often sticky. Flowers in late winter to spring. Pods almost straight with a dense, white, woolly covering.

Cultivation:

Adaptable to a wide variety of soils. Very hardy.

Special Notes:

Found in woodland and adjoining open forests. Fixes nitrogen.

Hedge Wattle

Acacia paradoxa



Description:

Spreading shrub: 2-4m. Fine intricate branching with fine thorns along branches. Leaves leathery and often wavy-edged. Flowers in spring. Pods straight or curved, with erect white hairs giving furry appearance.

Cultivation:

Prefers drier soils. Fast growing and lives 10-20 years.

Special Notes:

Found in woodland and open forests. Fixes nitrogen. Also called Kangaroo Thorn.

Golden Wattle

Acacia pycnantha



Description:

Shrub to small tree: 3-8m. Loosely branching. Leaves broad and curved. Flowers in early to mid-spring. Pods flattish and almost straight-edged.

Cultivation:

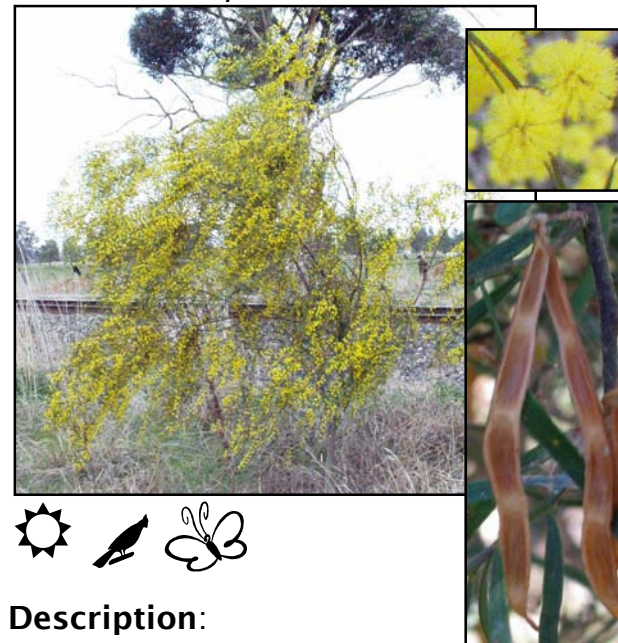
Adapts to most soils. Short lived, usually 5-10 years.

Special Notes:

Found in open forests and along creeks. Fixes nitrogen. Seeds can be roasted and ground as a food/garnish. Aboriginals ate gum or dissolved it in hot water for a sweet drink. Australia's floral emblem.

Varnish Wattle

Acacia verniciflua



Description:

Small bushy tree: up to 4m. Leaves long, narrow and shiny, as if freshly painted with varnish. Flowers in winter to spring. Pods flat and straight-edged.

Cultivation:

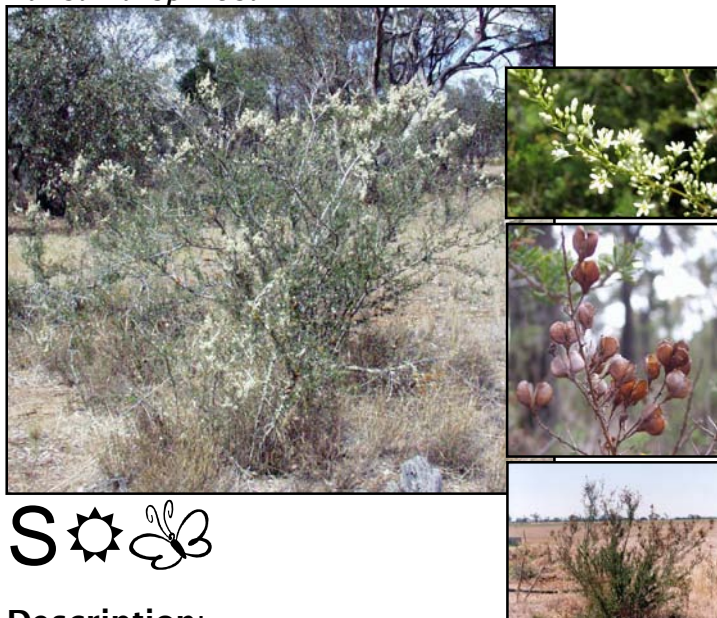
Prefers sandy or loamy soils.

Special Notes:

May be found in drier open forests, especially box forests. Fixes nitrogen.

Sweet Bursaria

Bursaria spinosa



Description:

Large thorny many-stemmed shrub: up to 8m. Creamy white flowers in spring to summer in loose pyramidal clusters at end of branches and have a distinctive fragrance. Red-brown seed capsules thin, dry and purse-like.

Cultivation:

Prefers clays. If in garden, may be pruned to shape.

Special Notes:

Found as generally isolated plants on roadsides and creek banks. Useful for controlling erosion. Nectar can be sucked from the flowers. Seed pods rattle when dry. Attracts beneficial parasitic wasps and butterflies.

River Bottlebrush

Callistemon sieberi



Description:

Tall willowy shrub: up to 7m. New growth pinkish. Cream or pale pink, distinctive round brush-like flowers. Flowers in late summer.

Cultivation:

Adaptable to a wide variety of soils. Prefers moist conditions but will tolerate dry soils. If in garden, may remove spent flowers to promote bushy growth.

Special Notes:

Widespread on riverbanks. Suitable for planting around effluent disposal fields. Nectar can be sucked from the flowers. Crushed leaves make a tea.

Grey Parrot-pea

Dillwynia cinerescens



Description:

Small shrub: up to 2m high and 1m wide. Narrow rigid grey-green leaves. Flowers during spring in small pea-like flowers clustered at the end of branches.

Cultivation:

If in garden, may prune after flowering for bushy growth.

Special Notes:

Found along creek banks. Fixes nitrogen.

Wedge-leaf Hopbush

Dodonea viscosa subsp. *angustifolia*



Description:

Small to medium shrub: 2-3m. Leaves variably wedge shaped (subspecies variation: some have leaf tip straight edged as if cut off, others have rounded tips). Plants either male or female but appear similar. Reddish inconspicuous flowers at various times of year. Distinctive red-brown winged papery seed pod.

Cultivation:

Common in dry rocky areas but adapts to most soil types. Responds to light pruning.

Special Notes:

Found with Grey Box and Yellow Box. Suitable for planting around effluent disposal fields. Aboriginals used chewed leaves for toothache and on stonefish and stingray wounds. DO NOT SWALLOW JUICE!

Berrigan

Eremophila longifolia



Description:

Tall shrub to small tree: can be up to 8m. Long narrow grey-green leaves. Reddish flowers at various times of year. Purple fleshy fruit oval in shape with long tail at tip.

Cultivation:

Prefers sandy loams. Often suckers, forming clumps.

Special Notes:

Useful in controlling erosion. Attractive to birds: Emus said to eat fruit, flowers attract honeyeaters. Aboriginals used bruised leaves to tan skin. Also called Emubush.

Common Eutaxia

Eutaxia microphylla var. *diffusa*



Description:

Growth variable, usually a shrub: up to 1m but may also form prostrate mats: up to 1.5m across. Thickly clustered, small narrow leaves along stems, sometimes spiny tipped. Small yellow and red pea-like flowers during spring.

Cultivation:

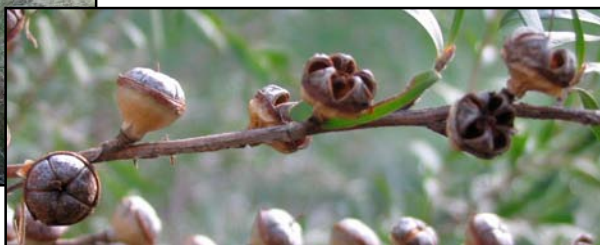
Tolerates a wide variety of conditions. If in garden, can respond well to occasional pruning.

Special Notes:

Useful in controlling erosion. Fixes nitrogen.

River Tea-tree

Leptospermum obovatum



Description:

Tall shrub: 2-4m. Bark fibrous and persistent on larger stems, smooth on smaller stems shedding in stringy strips. Leaves aromatic, variable: broadest towards the blunt and often indented tip. Creamy open flowers in summer. Seed capsules about 5mm wide.

Cultivation:

If in garden, may prune regularly to encourage bushiness.

Special Notes:

Found by streams and swamp margins.

Tangled Lignum

Muehlenbeckia florulenta



Description:

Small to medium many-branching and fine-stemmed shrub: up to 3m. Leaves generally absent. Dark grey-green branchlets stiff and wiry. Small creamy flowers clustered close to stem various times of year.

Cultivation:

Prefers silty, clay and heavy soils.

Special Notes:

Found in woodlands, especially Black Box. Can be found along creeks, in swamps and in occasionally flooded areas. Useful to control erosion in waterlogged and saline sites.

Waterbush

Myoporum montanum



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Description:

Wide bushy shrub: up to 3m. Leaves long, thin and tapered. Small white open flowers, furry inside; at various times of year. Globular fruit matures to purple.

Cultivation:

Prefers sandy soil. If in garden, may prune lightly and regularly to promote bushiness.

Special Notes:

Found in White Cypress-pine and forest communities. Aboriginals used gum from stems as glue.

Desert Cassia

Senna artemesoides



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Description:

Small to medium shrub: 1-3m. Leaves long and narrow, can broaden at tip. Flowers abundantly in spring (occasionally summer). Fragrant flowers clear yellow with petals curving inwards. Dark brown pods flat and membranous.

Cultivation:

If in garden, prune lightly after flowering to maintain shape and to promote flowering.

Special Notes:

Found in open forests and woodlands; also occasionally creek frontages. Fixes nitrogen.