



Acacia pycnantha photographs from left to right: Mature shrub; flowers; seedling leaf.
Below: germinating seedlings.

Acacia pycnantha - Golden Wattle

A Species in Focus

Are you growing *Acacia pycnantha*, commonly referred to as the Golden Wattle? The pictures displayed in the right column are what you can expect your little seedlings to look like after their first few weeks of germination. Acacias characteristically take 4 – 6 weeks to germinate (start to grow), but depending on the weather can sometimes germinate sooner or even later.

The *Acacia pycnantha* seedling will grow into a medium sized shrub to small tree up to 3 - 8m tall. It is recognised by its large, dark green, leathery phyllodes (modified leaves) and abundance of yellow 'fluffy ball' shaped flowers, appearing August - October.

The Golden Wattle is a common understorey plant found in open Eucalypt woodlands and is widespread through South Australia.

Being a legume, it is able to "fix" its own nitrogen requirements directly from the atmosphere with the aid of soil bacteria. This means they are able to quickly recolonise degraded areas.

Interesting facts about *Acacia pycnantha*:

- It is commonly selected for revegetation projects due to its natural ability as a "colonising plant." While it is short lived, its fast growth habit helps to stabilise soils and re-create a microclimate in open, degraded or fire affected areas, allowing other species to then re-establish themselves naturally over time.
- It is Australia's floral emblem and is where our national colours Green and Gold are derived from.
- The botanical name *pycnantha* is derived from the Greek, *pyknos* and *anthos*, meaning dense-flowered.
- They have nectar secreting glands on the phyllodes which attract ants and birds.

Week 2



Week 4



Week 6



Week 12

