



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

Australia Celebrating Australians

National Floral Emblem

Australia's national floral emblem is the golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha* Benth.). It has been used in the design of Australian stamps and many awards in our honours system. A single wattle flower is the emblem of the Order of Australia.

About the floral emblem

The golden wattle is an evergreen, spreading shrub or small tree. It grows in the under storey of open forest, woodland and in open scrub in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

When in flower, the golden wattle displays the national colours, green and gold.

As one species of a large genus of flora growing across Australia, the golden wattle is a symbol of unity.

Wattle is ideally suited to withstand our country's droughts, winds and bushfires. The resilience of wattle represents the spirit of the Australian people.

In recent times, the golden wattle has been used as a symbol of remembrance and reflection. On national days of mourning, for example, Australians are invited to wear a sprig of wattle.

National Wattle Day

The first day of September is National Wattle Day. It builds on a long unofficial tradition of wearing the wattle blossom on 1 September.

The day was introduced in 1913 by an association called the Wattle Day League and formally recognised on 23 June 1992. Australians can celebrate their floral heritage by planting wattles.

History

The golden wattle was unofficially accepted as the national floral emblem to mark Federation in 1901.

In 1912 the Prime Minister, the Hon. Andrew Fisher, suggested that the wattle be included as a decoration surrounding the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

Proclamation

The then Governor-General, Sir Ninian M Stephen AK GCMG GCVO KBE, proclaimed the golden wattle the national floral emblem on 19 August 1988.



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The proclamation is published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* No. S259.

Use of the national floral emblem

Permission is not required to reproduce the national floral emblem.

Fast facts

THE FLORAL EMBLEM:

The golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha* Benth.)

PROCLAIMED AS THE FLORAL EMBLEM:

19 August 1988

NATIONAL WATTLE DAY:

1 September

DESCRIPTION:

A hardy evergreen shrub or small tree with fluffy golden flower heads.

NUMBER OF WATTLE SPECIES IN AUSTRALIA:

Over 760

USE OF THE FLORAL EMBLEM:

Unrestricted

More information

IT'S AN HONOUR WEBSITE: www.itsanhonour.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS: www.anbg.gov.au