



INDIGENOUS GARDEN

Acacia longifolia (*Wattle/Wattleseed*)

Description

There are nearly 1000 Acacia species, commonly known as wattle, found in Australia. *Acacia longifolia* grows as a shrub or small tree up to 10m in height. Its leaves are narrow and leathery to the touch with two prominent veins and the flowers, which can be seen from July to August, are pale to golden yellow. The flowers are small and clump together to form a long spike shape coming off the branch. The tree also has a seed pod that can grow to 12 cm long and hangs either straight or slightly angled with a slightly papery feel.

Habitat

Acacia occupies vast areas of the continent and is to be found in a wide range of differing habitats from coastal to sub-alpine regions and from high rainfall to arid inland areas. They are particularly prevalent in the arid and semi-arid and the dry sub-tropical regions of the country.



Indigenous use

In many areas wattle gum was an important food as well as a cement. Wattle seed is high in protein and carbohydrate and was eaten both green and dry in the arid areas.