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SALTdeck Series

# GOLDEN WREATH WATTLE

*Acacia saligna*

T1  
TREE



# GOLDEN WREATH WATTLE

*Acacia saligna*



**Alternative names:** Orange Wattle, Port Jackson Willow, Silver Wattle, Willow Wattle.

**Family:** Fabaceae (Mimosoideae, Leguminosae).

**Description:** Erect or spreading shrub or tree 3–8 m tall. Bark greyish brown, smooth or finely finished. Leaves (they are flattened petioles or leaf stalks called phyllodes) (see photo) thin or leathery, straight or curved 8–25 cm long, 6–50 mm wide. Seedpod to 14 cm long; seeds dark brown to black, 5 mm long (see photo). May sucker and form thickets.

**Key features:** Globular clusters of orange-yellow flowers, and long narrow leaves. May be confused with Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*), which unlike *A. saligna*, has an assymetrical leaf (phyllode) base.

**Value:** High tannin content will limit intake. Generally low digestability and moderate crude protein (although protein may be bound in tannins and unavailable for the animal). If not managed carefully shrubs will rapidly grow out of reach of sheep. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the shrubs have less than 15 years productive lifespan.

**Salinity and waterlogging tolerance:** Tolerant of temporary flooding but does not persist in saturated soils. Moderate salt tolerance.

**Notes:** Native of Western Australia. Introduced to eastern Australia and is regarded as a weed. Because of its weed potential it is not recommended for planting outside WA.

**References:** *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelken (eds), Part 2, 1986. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 3, 1994. *Flora of South East Queensland*, Stanley and Ross (eds), 1981. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981. *Forage trees and shrubs in Australia—their current use and future potential*. Lefroy. RIRDC Project No. UWA53A.

