

Plant of the Week

Acacia

Wattle



The colours of our national flag are red, white and blue but our sporting teams are often clad in colours representing our Australian wattles – Green and Gold!

Don't think Australians have wattles all to themselves! There are approximately 750 species of *Acacia* found in Australia, perhaps 1,200 worldwide, in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas.

At any time of year it is possible to find *Acacia* species flowering somewhere in Australia, but from mid-winter golden-yellow blossoms light up our Australian bushland. From 1916, Wattle Day has been celebrated in New South Wales on 1st August. Not to be outdone, in 1992, politicians in Canberra announced that 1st September would be the official Wattle Day. But Canberra is higher and cooler than Sydney. By the 1st September, wattles in eastern Australia are well past their peak, so many of us choose to continue to celebrate Wattle Day on 1st August each year.

We all love wattle but being Australians we can't resist being irreverent. This famous disrespectful poem probably sums up our feelings:

**This here's the wattle,
It's the emblem of our land,
You can stick it in a bottle,
Or hold it in your hand!!**



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Downing Herbarium, Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University.