

Acacia saligna

(Labill.) H.L.Wendl.

ORANGE WATTLE

Flowering period: July–November.

Description: Dense to open shrub to tree, sometimes weeping in habit, 1.2–3 m high with leaves that are variable, 8–35 cm long, up to 3 cm wide. Flowers are produced in large spherical heads up to 17 mm in diameter – the largest flower heads found in the coastal wattles. Favours protected sites particularly deep swales where it may dominate if disturbance such as fire or soil disturbance are not carefully managed.

Pollination: Open pollinated by a wide variety of insects.

Distribution: A widely distributed species throughout the south-west of Western Australia from Kalbarri to Balladonia. Is naturalised in other States, indicating the weedy potential of the species particularly in the presence of seed-eating pest birds such as starlings.

Propagation: Readily propagates from seed treated with hot water or scarified with fine sandpaper. Sow in a free-draining mix. Species appears to adopt widespread soil bacteria and readily forms nitrogen-fixing root nodules.

Uses in restoration: Can rapidly dominate a restoration site so ensure planting densities are managed. However, the species has a short life expectancy (<15 years) although the soil seed bank may be very long lived. In restoration plantings, use *A. cyclops* and *A. rostellifera* in preference to orange wattle.

Notes: A prominent and highly invasive species in the western Cape in South Africa where large tracts of indigenous and biodiverse fynbos vegetation have been overtaken by monocultures of *A. saligna*.



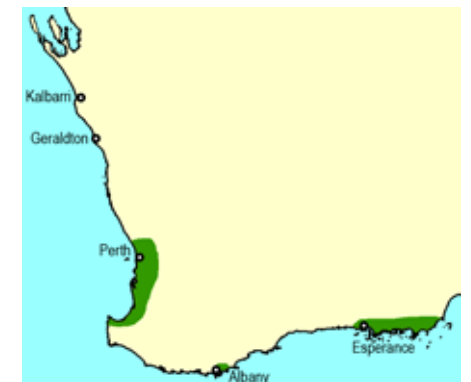
Habit



Flowers



Pods



Distribution