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NRM Plan

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Golden wreath wattle (*Acacia saligna*)

Reducing its impact in the Northern and Yorke NRM Region

Description of this weed

Golden wreath wattle (also known as Willow Wattle) is a medium-sized shrub up to 10m tall and 6m wide. The pendulous branches are often blue-grey in colour when young, changing to smooth brown bark. Foliage is dark green, droopy and leathery, adult leaves are actually phyllodes and vary in size (12-20cm long and 1-3cm wide) but always have a prominent vein.

It has yellow golden ball type flowers borne profusely in spring develop into smooth brown long rounded pods which are straight to strongly curled.

Why is it a weed and what is the impact?

A native of Western Australia, Golden wreath wattle is fast-growing shrub. It widely used in parks and for erosion control. It regenerates well from seed spreading rapidly.

Golden wreath wattle germinates in great numbers on road edges and disturbed ground, particularly after fire. It is tolerant of dry, low nutrient soils, but grows very vigorously in better conditions.

It is a major weed in South Africa where it has been used to stabilise sand dunes. It has become a weed in eastern NSW and has been planted as a 'native' in South Australia where it is invading bushland. Local native wattles should be planted instead of Golden wreath wattle.



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What can you do? – Some methods of control

Mechanical

Hand pull or dig out small plants including roots. Once the plant is established it has a very strong taproot, though the plant may only be 30cm tall, if the top growth is broken off the stump will re-grow repeatedly.

Chemical

For established plants either cut and swab or drill and fill techniques can be used. If any stumps re-shoot, cut off and paint shoots.

Please contact your local NRM Authorised Officer for advice on chemical control.

Help and Assistance

NRM Authorised Officers

Snowtown – 8865 2166

Riverton – 8847 2544

Minlaton – 8853 2795

Port Augusta – 8641 1513

Peterborough – 8651 3577

Orroroo – 8658 1086

