

Wattles of Greater Brisbane

Third
Edition
August
2006

Key to the

Wattles

GROUP 5: Bipinnate leaves (true leaves) with several to numerous leaflets (adult foliage)

1. Plants with spines (stipular); heads 2–3 together in leaf axils; pods cylindrical (All year, naturalised)
1x. Plants without spines; heads grouped in branched inflorescences; pods flat
2. Leaflets less than 4 mm long; leaves with 6–16 pinnae (Sum)
2x. Leaflets 6–12 mm long; leaves with 3–8 pinnae
3. 4–8 pairs of leaflets per pinna; leaflets rounded at apex (Spr, cultivated)
- 3x. 15–25 pairs of leaflets per pinna; leaflets pointed at apex (Aut–Win)
- 3xx. Leaflets 6–12 mm long; leaves with 3–8 pinnae

The area covered by this key is Greater Brisbane—between Beenleigh, Caboolture, Ipswich and Mt Glorious and includes the Moreton Bay Islands. Flowering: Sum: summer; Aut: autumn; Win: winter; Spr: spring; All year

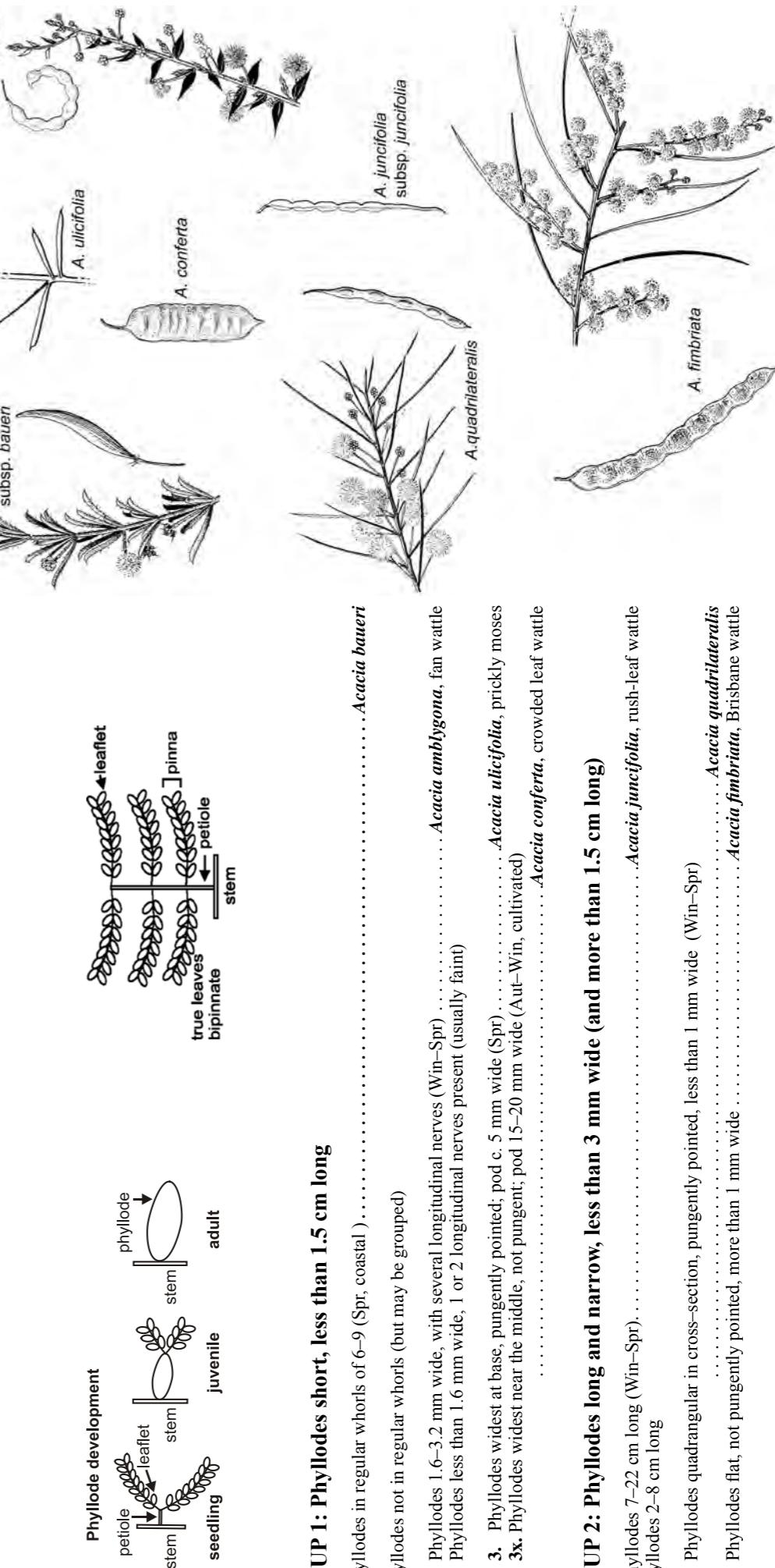
KEY TO GROUPS

1. Bipinnate (true) leaves present on adult plants (see diagram below)
1x. Only phyllodes present on adult plants (see diagram below)
2. Phyllodes less than 1.5 cm long
2x. Phyllodes more than 1.5 cm long
3. Phyllodes less than 3 mm wide
3x. Phyllodes more than 3 mm wide
4. Phyllodes with only 1 longitudinal nerve; flowers in heads (spherical)
4x. Phyllodes with 2 or more longitudinal nerves; flowers in heads or spikes

INSTRUCTIONS:

To use one of the following five group keys:

- start with the **key to groups**
- read the statements **1** and **1x** which offer two alternatives
- choose the statement which is most appropriate to the specimen you wish to identify
- read the two statements directly below the chosen statement, eg. **2** and **2x** after choosing one, go to the statement directly below the chosen statement
- continue in this way until you reach a group number
- go to this **group key** and continue the process until you reach a species name
- phyllodes from mature plants only should be used



GROUP 1: Phyllodes short, less than 1.5 cm long

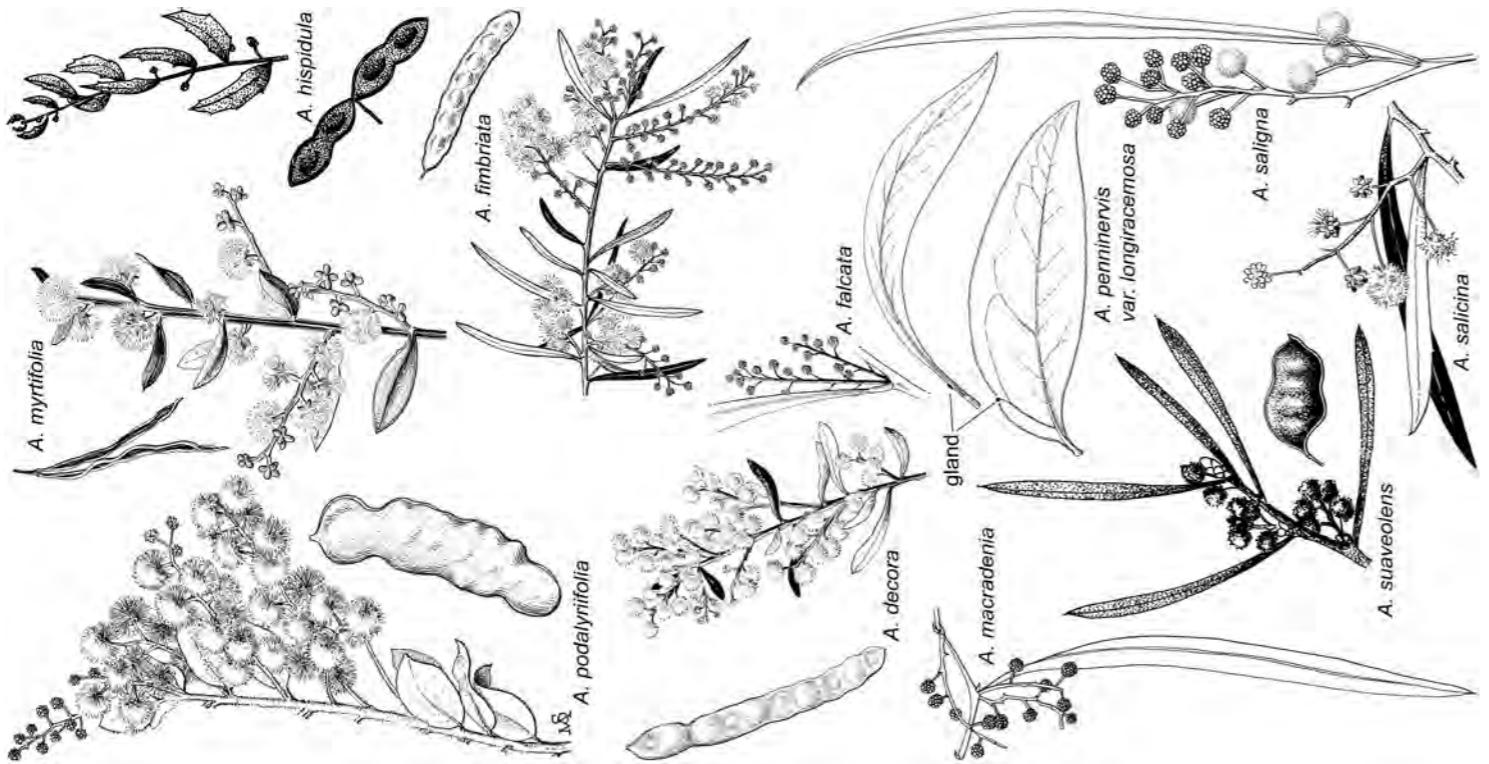
1. Phyllodes in regular whorls of 6–9 (Spr, coastal)
1x. Phyllodes not in regular whorls (but may be grouped)
2. Phyllodes 1.6–3.2 mm wide, with several longitudinal nerves (Win–Spr)
2x. Phyllodes less than 1.6 mm wide, 1 or 2 longitudinal nerves present (usually faint)
3. Phyllodes widest at base, pungently pointed; pod c. 5 mm wide (Spr)
3x. Phyllodes widest near the middle, not pungent; pod 1.5–20 mm wide (Aut–Win, cultivated)

GROUP 2: Phyllodes long and narrow, less than 3 mm wide (and more than 1.5 cm long)

1. Phyllodes 7–22 cm long (Win–Spr)
1x. Phyllodes 2–8 cm long
2. Phyllodes quadrangular in cross-section, pungently pointed, less than 1 mm wide (Win–Spr)
2x. Phyllodes flat, not pungently pointed, more than 1 mm wide

GROUP 3: Phyllodes with one longitudinal nerve (and phyllodes more than 1.5 cm long and more than 3 mm wide); flowers in heads

1. Phyllodes 2–5 cm long
 2. Phyllodes greyish, 1.5–2.5 times as long as wide, often hairy; heads of 20–30 flowers (Aut–Win, cultivated and native)
 - *Acacia podalyriifolia*, Queensland silver wattle
 - 2x. Phyllodes green, more than 2 times as long as wide; heads of 3–15 flowers
 3. Phyllodes more than 7 mm wide; heads of 3–6 flowers (Spr, perfumed)
 - *Acacia myrtifolia*, red-stemmed wattle
 - 3x. Phyllodes less than 7 mm wide; heads of more than 10 flowers
 4. Phyllodes with tubercles on margins; heads single in phyllode axils, whitish (uncommon confined to sandstone) (Win–Spr)
 - *Acacia hispidula*
 - 4x. Phyllodes hairy only on margin or at base; heads in branched inflorescences, yellow
 5. Phyllodes thin, hairy on margins; gland 1–6 mm from base; pods 5–8 cm long (Win–Spr, common, native and cultivated)
 - *Acacia fimbriata*, Brisbane wattle
 - 5x. Phyllodes not thin, hairy only at base; gland 6–12 mm from base; pod 7–11 cm long (Win–Spr)
 - *Acacia decora*, pretty wattle
 - 1x. Phyllodes more than 5 cm long
 6. Stipules hardened and persistent, c. 5 mm long; shrubs with zigzag branches (Spr, naturalised, cultivated)
 - *Acacia macradenia*, zigzag wattle
 - 6x. Stipules absent or falling, less than 1 mm long; shrubs or trees, branches not or slightly zigzag
 7. Phyllode margin indented by conspicuous gland at least 10 mm from base with a raised nerve running into the gland (Sum, common)
 - *Acacia penninervis*
 - 7x. Phyllodes with or without glands, if gland present than not indenting the margin and lacking a raised nerve
 8. Phyllodes on stalks 3–5 mm long; phyllodes always more than 12 mm wide with a large slit-like gland at the base (Aut–Win, common, widespread)
 - *Acacia falcata*
 - 8x. Phyllodes on stalks up to 2 mm long; phyllodes usually less than 12 mm wide, gland(s) if present, small and round
 9. Heads with 3–7 flowers, racemes of heads enclosed in bracts before development (Win–Spr, coastal sandy soils)
 - *Acacia suaveolens*, sweet wattle
 - 9x. Heads with more than 15 flowers; racemes never enclosed in bracts
 10. Phyllodes with at least 2 glands; flowers whitish (Aut–Win, widespread)
 - *Acacia saligna*
 - 10x. Phyllodes with only 1 gland; flowers yellow (Spr, cultivated, naturalised, mainly on beaches)
 - *Acacia salicina*, golden wreath wattle



GROUP 4: Phyllodes with several longitudinal nerves (and phyllodes more than 1.5 cm long and more than 3 mm wide); flowers in heads or spikes

1. Branchlets winged and flattened; phyllodes less than 5 times as long as wide; flowers in heads, (all year)
 - *Acacia complanata*, flat-stemmed wattle
- 1x. Branchlets not winged (but may be flattened); phyllodes more than 4 times as long as wide; flowers in spikes or heads
 2. Phyllodes with parallel longitudinal nerves never joining each other, sometimes obscure
 3. Phyllodes strongly curved, on stalks 2–3 mm long; flowers bright yellow (Aut–Win)
 - *Acacia julifera*
 - 3x. Phyllodes slightly curved, on stalks 5–9 mm long; flowers cream or pale yellow (Sum–Aut)
 - *Acacia disparima* (previously included in *Acacia autacocarpa*), hickory wattle
 - 2x. Phyllodes with longitudinal nerves definitely joining, often forming distinctive elongated islands
 4. Phyllodes with only 3–4 widely spaced longitudinal nerves, with a coarse reticulum between; flowers in heads (Spr, rainforests and rainforest margins)
 - *Acacia bakeri*, marblewood
 - 4x. Phyllodes with more than 4 longitudinal nerves (sometimes obscure); flowers in heads or spikes
 5. Branchlets with prominent lenticels (appearing as small raised white spots), flowers in spikes (Sum–Aut, fertile soils)
 - *Acacia maideni*, Maiden's wattle
 - 5x. Branchlets without obvious lenticels, flowers in heads or spikes
 6. Young branches hairy
 7. Young branches golden-hairy; phyllode with large slit-like gland at base; flowers in spikes; pods tightly coiled into a flattened cylinder (Aut–Win, coastal)
 - *Acacia cincinnata*, blackwood
 - 7x. Young branches with greyish hairs; phyllode with small gland a short distance from base; flowers in spikes
 - *Acacia melanoxylon*, Maiden's wattle
 - 6x. Young branches without hairs
 8. Young branches usually with faint bloom, smooth or bluntly pointed; spikes without a stalk; flowers with 4 sepals (Win–Spr, coastal dunes)
 - *Acacia implexa*
 - 8x. Young branches angled or ribbed, without bloom; base of phyllodes broadly wedge shaped; flowers in spikes
 - *Acacia sophorae*
 9. Phyllodes straight, elliptic, rounded or bluntly pointed; spikes without a stalk; flowers with 4 sepals (Win–Spr, coastal dunes)
 - *Acacia leiochrysa*, coastal wattle
 - 9x. Phyllodes curved, usually pointed; spikes with distinct stalks; flowers with 5 sepals
 - *Acacia concurrens*, black wattle
 10. Phyllodes on stalks 3–4 mm long; young branches reddish and triangular in cross-section; calyx always hairy (Win–Spr, common)
 - *Acacia leiocalyx*
 - 10x. Phyllodes on stalks 5–9 mm long; branches not reddish, slightly triangular in cross-section; calyx always hairy (Win–Spr, common)
 - *Acacia concurrens*, black wattle

