

Golden wattle

Acacia pycnantha

Garal (Wiradjuri)



AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL FLORAL EMBLEM

SIZE: A large shrub 3-8 metres tall.

LEAVES: Not true leaves but flattened leaf stalks called 'pyllodes'. They are 6-20 cm long and 5-50 mm wide, leathery and slightly shiny.

FLOWERS: Flowers from July to November. Fluffy golden balls.

FRUIT: Seed pods are 50-140 mm long and 5-8 mm wide.

WIRADJURI USES

- Wood is used to make stone axe handles.
- Gum or sap is dissolved in water to make a sweet drink. It can be mixed with ash for use as a resin or glue.
- Giigandul seeds are made into flour between two grinding stones and then used to make bread.
- Bark used to treat indigestion and make string for bags and baskets.



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Photography: K. Coleman / PeeKdesigns



Education

Drooping she-oak

Allocasuarina verticillata

Birradhang (Wiradjuri)



SIZE: A medium tree that can grow up to 10 metres tall.

LEAVES: Needle-like branchlets are connected by tiny yellow leaf scales.

FLOWERS: Female trees produce small red and cream fluffy flowers. Male trees produce showy orange-yellow tassels, or flower spikes.

FRUIT: Winged seeds form inside cones.

WIRADJURI USES

- Wood used to make boomerangs and other implements.
- Young shoots and cones are chewed to help quench thirst.
- Empty seed cones can be used as toys or jewellery.
- Seeds can be ground into a paste and eaten.
- She-oaks attract birds such as black cockatoos that eat the cones.



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Photography: Stand of drooping she-oak (M. Simm), Cones (M. Fagg / courtesy of Atlas of Living Australia)



Education

Chocolate lily

Arthropodium strictum

Dirramaay (Wiradjuri)



SIZE: Herb that has flower spikes up to 1.2 metres tall.

LEAVES: The leaves are flat and up to 40 cm long and 1-7 mm wide.

FLOWERS: Purple, frilly flowers smell like chocolate.

ROOTS: Tuberous roots are usually between 15 mm long and 5-10 mm wide.

WIRADJURI USES

- Tubers or bulbs are dug up and eaten raw or roasted.



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Photography: Flower (Wikipedia), Bulbs or tubers (D. Wartinbee)



Education

Ruby saltbush

Enchylaena tomentosa

Barrinan (Wiradjuri)



SIZE: Low shrub to one metre high.

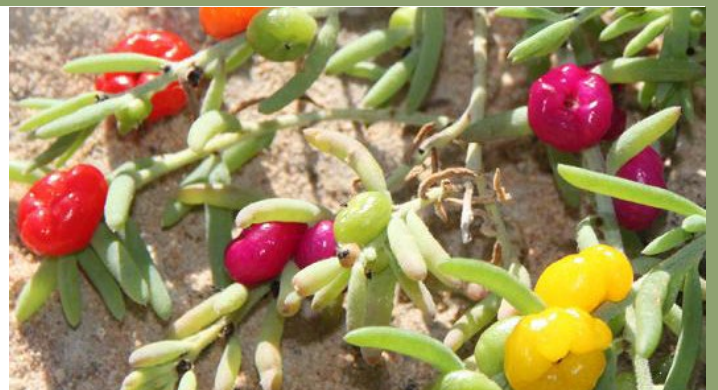
LEAVES: Small leaves are succulent (they hold water) and sometimes hairy.

FLOWERS: Small white flowers.

FRUIT: Shaped like tiny plum puddings, they can be green, yellow, red or purple and fall off the bush when they're ripe.

WIRADJURI USES

- Red button-shaped berries picked and eaten. Too many at once can make you sick.
- Berries can be soaked in water to make a sweet tea.
- Berries can be used to make dyes.
- Fleshy leaves are boiled and eaten like vegetables.
- Habitat plant for small animals in dry areas – good spot for hunting.



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Photography: M. Mulholland / OEH



Education

Kangaroo grass

Themeda triandra

Gaymaan (Wiradjuri)



SIZE: Grows in tussocks 1.5 metres tall and 50 cm across.

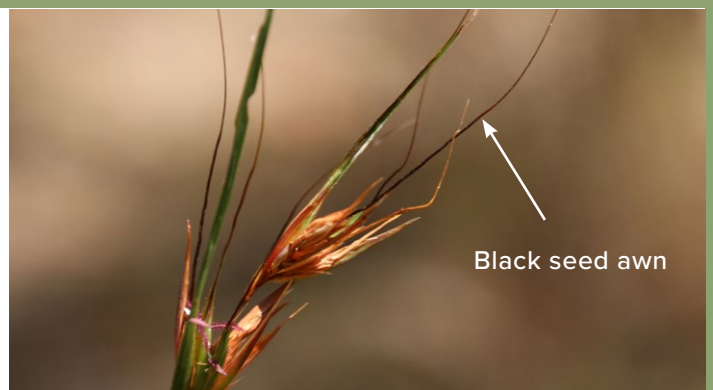
LEAVES: 10-50 cm long and 2-5 mm wide, green drying to an orange brown.

FLOWERS: From December to February it produces large red-brown spike-lets.

FRUIT: Seeds have a 4-7 cm long black awn attached.

WIRADJURI USES

- String from leaves and stem to make bags and fishing nets.
- Seeds are separated from the 'chaff' and ground into flour to make damper.
- Leaves can be used in weaving to make baskets and mats.



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Education

Quandong

Santalum acuminatum

Guwandang (Wiradjuri)



SIZE: Small tree growing up to 5 metres tall. Partially parasitic, attaching its roots to host plants, often wattles and she-oaks, for water and soil nutrients.

LEAVES: 3-9 cm long, an olive colour and are classically eucalypt shaped.

FLOWERS: Tiny flowers in late summer are insect attracting.

FRUIT: Fruits ripen in the following spring, are 15-25 mm wide with red skin.

WIRADJURI USES

- Ripe red quandong fruits would be eaten raw or dried for later use.
- Quandongs were much valued for their medicinal properties. They are rich in vitamin C and the oily kernel can be used to treat aches.
- Wood is soft and can be easily worked with to make coolamons.
- Seeds of the quandong can be used for jewellery, toys, buttons or other ornamental purposes.



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Education

Wilga

Geijera parviflora

Wilgaa (Wiradjuri)



SIZE: *Small tree to 8 metres tall.*

LEAVES: *long narrow leaves are dark green and are strongly aromatic.*

FLOWERS: *Small white flowers form in late winter to the end of spring. Their unpleasant smell attracts bees and blowflies.*

FRUIT: *Small fruits, about 4-5 mm across, are green and turn dark with age.*

WIRADJURI USES

- Wilgaas shelter many animals and are a good place to hunt for food.
- Soft leaves can be used as bedding.
- Native bees make honey from the flowers.
- Wilgaa wood is strong and can be used to make boomerangs.



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Education

Mistletoe

Amyema species



Wilburugil (Wiradjuri)



SIZE: Mistletoes are semi-parasitic, meaning it relies on the host tree for support and water. The species of mistletoe (90 species are native to Australia) and the host tree determines its size and leaf shape.

FLOWERS: Generally drooping and green to orange/red in colour.

FRUIT: Fruit contain a single seed and the fruit pulp is extremely sticky.

WIRADJURI USES

- The fruit of the mistletoe is called snotty gobbles. It has the colour and viscosity of 'snot' but is very sweet and sticky. Only the inner pulp is eaten - the skin is very bitter.
- Leaves can be used to treat fever and inflammation. They are bruised between grinding stones and soaked in water before drinking.



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Education

Mat-rush

Lomandra species

Dirramaay (Wiradjuri)



SIZE: Tussock-like shape to one metre. Commonly found near water.

LEAVES: Long, strap-like leaves with two spikes per leaf tip.

FLOWERS: Small, yellow/cream flowers form along a stalk.

FRUIT: Seeds are spiky.

WIRADJURI USES

- Leaves are used in weaving to make baskets, bowls, mats, as well as making string and rope.
- Base of young leaves can be chewed like celery.
- Seeds can be ground and made into flour.
- The root also provided traditional medicine for the treatment of bites and stings.



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Education

Native cherry

Exocarpos cupressiformis

Mambarra (Wiradjuri)



SIZE: Shrub or small tree to 8 metres high. Resembles a conifer pine. They are parasitic and attach to the roots of other trees such as eucalypts.

LEAVES: Leaves are reduced to tiny triangular scales 0.5 mm long.

FLOWERS: 8 mm tiny yellow-green flowers appear September to May.

FRUIT: The fruit is a nut attached to a swollen, succulent edible stem.

WIRADJURI USES

- The red fruit can be eaten.
- Mambarra timber is used to make tools such as small clubs, digging sticks spears, woomeras and bull-roarers.
- The sap is used for medicinal purposes.
- Mambarra is also used in smoking ceremonies.



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Photography: Tree (J. Tann / Wikipedia), Fruit (K. Coleman / PeeKdesigns)



Education