

# Acacia baileyana

## COMMON NAMES

Cootamundra wattle

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small to fairly large tree with bipinnate glaucous leaves. The cultivated variety "purpurea" is also widely grown, this has purple-tinged leaves but is not known to be naturalised. Flowers consist of numerous globose mid-yellow heads in racemes exceeding the leaves. The seed pod is more or less straight, up to 100 x 20 mm.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Easily distinguished from other naturalised wattles by the glaucous leaves with small, unequal pinnae.

## HABITAT

Waste places and scrubland.

## GENUS

Acacia

## FAMILY

Fabaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Acacia baileyana* F.Muell.

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

June, July, August.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1981

## ORIGIN

N.S.W (Australia)

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Forestry

## TOLERANCES

Can tolerate a wide variety of conditions, does particularly well in dry areas.



*Acacia baileyana*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



*Acacia baileyana*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Reproduces from seed. Huge numbers of flowers are produced on plants as young as 2 years old. This results in high seed production. Germination is enhanced by fire or mechanical disturbance. Widely spread as a cultivated plant. Seed dispersed a short distance from parent plant by wind and gravity.

## ETYMOLOGY

**acacia**: Derived from Greek 'akazo' to sharpen, meaning point; spine or thorn.

## ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

**This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC.** 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

## NVS CODE

ACABAI

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acacia-baileyana/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026