

Nice, but not a Western Australian Native

This note is for people who are asked to use Western Australian native plants in a project, artwork, floral arrangement etc. We often see non-Western Australian natives used; people are misled by nurseries, florists and landscapers who erroneously promote these plants as native, or see them growing in bushland. Listed below are some plants that many people think are Western Australian native, where in fact they are –

- South African proteas,
- Hybrids,
- From the eastern states (if seen in bushland they are usually considered a threat to the bushland).

South African proteas

All *Protea* (protea, sugarbushes), *Leucospermum* (pincushions) and *Leucadendron* (conebushes) plants.



King Protea *Protea cynaroides*



Sugarbush *Protea neriifolia*



Leucospermum



Leucadendron

Bottlebrushes (*Callistemon*)

Only two Western Australian species – *Callistemon glaucus* (Albany Bottlebrush) and *Callistemon phoeniceus* (Lesser Bottlebrush).

Most horticultural *Callistemon* are either hybrids (Candy Burst, Fluro Burst, Red Rover, Snow Burst etc.) or cultivars e.g. Kings Park Special and of *C. viminalis*/*C. citrinus* (Green John, Red Alert, Scarlet Flame).

Best not to use any.



Grevilleas

Western Australia has many native *Grevillea*, however many that are found commercially are hybrids and may be a cross between a WA grevillea and an eastern states variety e.g. Robyn Gordon. If it has a fancy name, then it is most likely a hybrid.



Wattles (*Acacia*)

Many of the eastern states wattles have become weeds in our bushlands:

- *Acacia podalyriifolia* (Mt Morgan Wattle, Queensland Silver Wattle).
- *Acacia iteaphylla* (Flinders Range Wattle).
- *Acacia baileyana* (Cootamundra Wattle).
- *Acacia longifolia* (Sydney Golden Wattle).
- *Acacia melanoxylon* (Australian Blackwood).
- *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle).
- *Acacia pycnantha* (Golden Wattle).

Many acacias have similar flowers; however, these ones can usually be identified by their distinctive leaves or phyllodes (flattened leaf stalks), growth habit or flowering season.



Acacia longifolia
Flowers tubular shaped. Dense, large shrub to over 6m wide.

Acacia baileyana
Small fern-like leaves. Open shrub or tree to 8m.

Acacia mearnsii
Green fern-like leaves. Distinct tree-like habit to over 10m.

Acacia podalyriifolia
Silver oval shaped 'leaves'. Open medium sized shrub or tree.

Acacia iteaphylla
Long narrow 'leaf', new growth has red tinge. Medium sized dense shrub.

Acacia pycnantha
Sickle-shaped 'leaves'. Dense, large shrub to 8m.

Others

- *Leptospermum laevigatum* (Coastal Tea Tree, Victorian Tea Tree).
- *Chamaecytisus palmensis* (Tagasaste, Tree Lucerne).
- *Dimorphotheca ecklonis* (Cape Marguerite Daisy, Veld Daisy) formerly *Osteospermum ecklonis*.
- *Freesia* sp. various.
- *Amaryllis belladonna* (Easter Lily, Naked Lady).



Leptospermum laevigatum
Coastal Tea Tree



Chamaecytisus palmensis
Tagasaste, Tree Lucerne



Dimorphotheca ecklonis
Cape Marguerite Daisy



Amaryllis belladonna
Easter Lily



Freesia

If you are unsure, contact your local Wildflower Society branch, or if you have the botanical name check on Florabase. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au>. Otherwise, it is best not to use them.

Be Different! Don't use common species in your project. Western Australia has thousands of unique flowers to choose from.



Wildflower Society of WA (Inc)
Armadale Branch
www.WildflowerSocietyWA.org.au
Armadale.Branch@WildflowerSocietyWA.org.au

