

Threatened Flora Conservation

Keep a look out for this Plant!

Phantom Wattle (*Acacia phasmoides*)

Conservation Status:

National: Classified as *vulnerable* under the federal EPBC Act.

Victoria: Classified as *vulnerable* under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

NSW: Classified as *vulnerable* under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act.

In Victoria, Phantom Wattle is known in the wild from only one location: Burrowa – Pine Mountain National Park in the state's north east. Four populations are known within this area, with a total of approximately 500 plants covering less than 10ha. In NSW the species occurs in one location within the Woomargama National Park, where the population contains an estimated 2,300 plants.

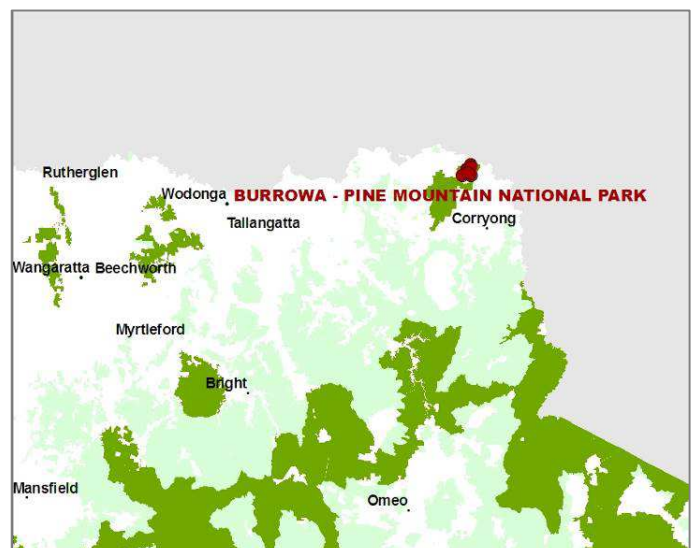


Description

The Phantom Wattle is a small to medium-sized erect shrub growing to 1–4 m in height. The stems are silvery-grey, the branches are slender and have scattered, short silvery hairs. The phyllodes (leaves) are thin, alternate and 5–11 cm long and 1–2 mm wide with a distinct mid-vein. Flowers are light golden yellow 0.5–1 cm long and arranged in globular clusters (Sept–Dec). The seed pods are up to 9 cm long and 3–5 mm wide with scattered white hairs when young. The very thin phyllodes and globular flowers readily distinguish the Phantom Wattle from other *Acacia* species.

Habitat

In Victoria, Phantom Wattle grows in woodland above 600 m altitude on granitic slopes in sheltered areas, where it grows in rocky country where soil cover is sparse and annual rainfall is between 700–1000 mm. Overstorey species include stunted Red Stringybark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*), Broad-leaved Peppermint (*E. dives*) and Black Cypress-pine (*Callitris endlicheri*), with an understorey of Burgan (*Kunzea ericoides*), Green Grevillea (*Grevillea jephcottii*) and Broad-leaf Hop-bush (*Dodonaea rhombifolia*).



Conservation – You can help

There are many ways you can help conserve this unusual little shrub:

- Keep an eye out when hiking in the bush – if you find any please contact one of the Parks Victoria or DELWP officers listed below.
- Control weeds and pests such as rabbits and deer on your property.
- Enquire about landholder incentives to protect bushland and other private land remnant vegetation protection incentives programs available in your area.
- Participate in revegetation programs including Phantom Wattle planting at suitable private land locations.

An active conservation program is currently under way that aims to enhance the existing wild population. The program includes the following activities:

- **Survey and monitoring:** to establish population numbers and recruitment levels, and determine planted tube stock survival rates.
- **Re-establishment:** Planting on suitable Park and private land sites to boost locations and numbers.
- **Signposting and fencing:** To raise awareness and assist browsing protection.



Further information:

- **Scott Thomson, John Silins or Kelton Goyne**
Parks Victoria Rangers Tallangatta, (02) 6071 5301
- **Glen Johnson, Senior Biodiversity Officer, DELWP Wodonga**
Glen.Johnson@delwp.vic.gov.au (02) 6043 7924



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