

WHY DO RED HILL REGENERATORS CUT WATTLE TREES?

There are 2 main species of wattle growing on Red Hill – Cootamundra wattle (*Acacia baileyana*) and Silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*).

Regenerators **ONLY CUT COOTAMUNDRA WATTLE** as it is not local to this region and is a Class 4 Pest in the ACT.

Why is Cootamundra wattle a pest?

- Fast growing
- Seed has a high survival rate (soil stored seed remains viable for many decades and germinates prolifically after fire)
- Excludes light and forms a dense layer of leaf and pod remains on the soil surface. This eliminates many indigenous species, but allows many exotic grasses to flourish.
- Hybridises with a number of other Acacia species, including silver wattle and black wattle.
- Continued financial and labour cost to the community in those areas where it has to be (or is desirably) removed.

How to tell identify Cootamundra and Silver wattle

Both wattles have blueish-grey-green leaves and flower early in spring.

They can be distinguished readily by their leaves.

Cootamundra wattle



- 5-7 pairs of branchlets attached to the stem
- lowest pair is shorter, swept back & embraces the stem to which the leaf is attached.

Silver wattle



- 8-20 pairs of branchlets attached to the stem
- the lowest pair is not swept back.