



**Family: Fabaceae or Pea Family**

**Species: Acacia**

**Common name: Wattle**

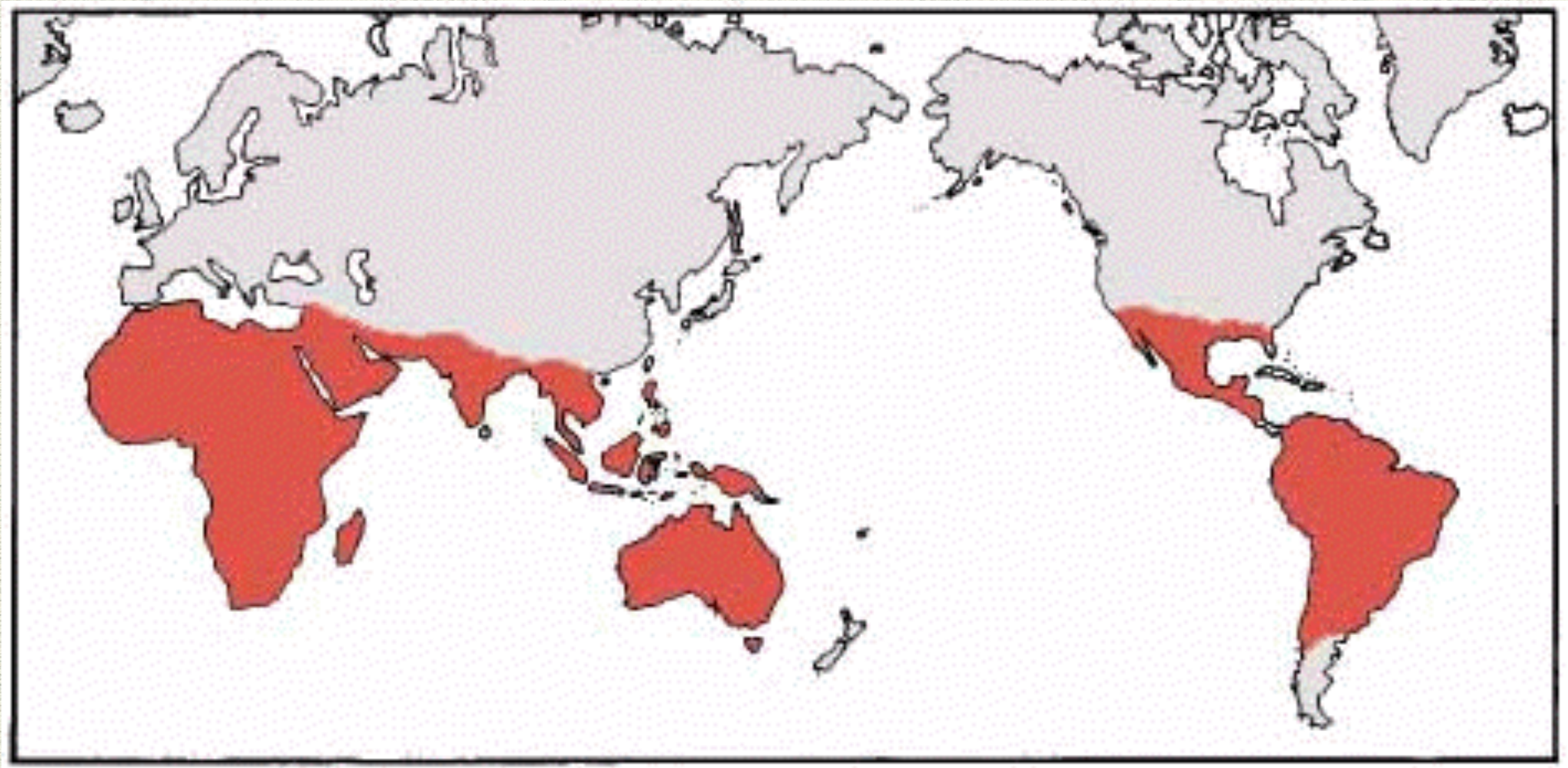


# Over 1000 Species





Has a definite presence in San Diego



Found in tropical and subtropical climates  
throughout the world



# Many of the species found in Australia



Golden Wattle is Australian national floral emblem  
September 1 is Wattle Day



# Growing Acacia

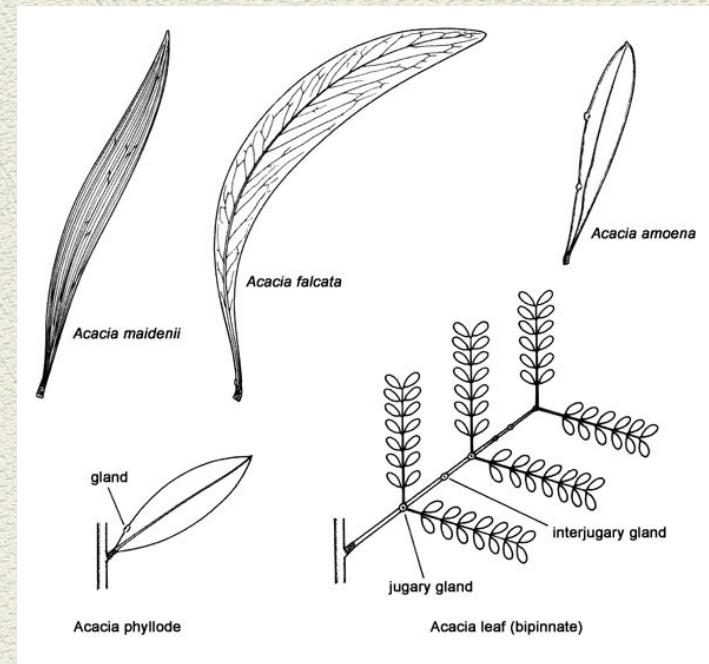


Can be grown from cuttings or seeds,  
easiest to grow from seed

Fast growing, usually flower in second year



# Leaves



Leaves have various shapes  
In dry areas, the leaves are a flattened leaf stalk



# Beautiful flowers



Variety of shapes, perfumed scent,  
can flower throughout the year





Trees can grow up to 70 feet

Life expectancy 15 to 30 years



## Can be trees or shrubs



Small trees can be pruned to be large shrubs  
Large shrubs can be pruned to be small trees



# Roots



Grows in almost any type of soil ...

Sand, clay, acidic, alkaline, even uranium tainted

Deep roots tolerate drought

Thrives with little rain and a few deep waterings

Actually returns nutrients to soil



# Adaptable



Thorns developed to keep hungry herbivores away

Stinging ants have a symbiotic relationship with the Acacia...  
they burrow into thorns, live off of the nectar,  
and sting hungry creatures



# Hungry herbivores



Yummy



Should have  
saved something  
for dessert



# Human uses



Medicinal uses - extracts from leaves and bark

Perfumes from flowers



## More human uses



Wood is used for floorings, paper, furniture,  
and firewood

Tannins are used for tanning leather and in the  
pharmaceutical industry



You guessed it... even more human uses



Gum from Acacia is used in the food and soft drink industry

Seeds can be ground into a high protein flour



# Why to love the Acacia



Acacia are beautiful, adaptable, drought tolerant,  
customizable, and love San Diego

Acacia have learned the art of forgiving