

Gompholobium grandiflorum

Golden Glory Pea,
Large Wedge Pea

The Golden Glory Peas, particularly *Gompholobium grandiflorum* and *G. latifolium*, are some of the most spectacular yellow flowered peas of Sydney bushland. *Gompholobium* species mostly occur in Australia, with just a few from further afield in New Guinea and the Lesser Sunda Islands of Indonesia. The genus *Gompholobium* was first described by the botanist J E Smith in 1798.



As the common name would suggest, *Gompholobium* belongs to the pea family, Fabaceae. The Fabaceae is one of the largest plant families in the world (more than 19,000 species) and includes many important food crops, such as beans, peas, lucerne, broad beans, chick peas, peanuts. The subfamily Faboideae includes all those members of the pea family which have the characteristic pea shaped flowers (large standard, two wings and a *keel* made up of two fused petals which enclose stigma and stamens). Peas are important nutritionally for their exceptionally high levels of proteins, but

they are also important ecologically for their symbiotic relationship with the bacterium *Rhizobium*, which forms nodules on the roots and fixes atmospheric nitrogen in a form that can be utilised by the host plant.

There are about 44 species in the genus which is particularly diverse in the south-west of Western Australia. In 1804, *Gompholobium grandiflorum* was the first **species** of *Gompholobium* to be described.

Our own local Golden Glory Pea, *Gompholobium grandiflorum*, is common in heath, woodland and forest on shallow sandy soils round Sydney, but has only a limited distribution, extending west to the Blue Mountains and south to Jervis Bay. The specific name, *grandiflorum*, refers to the large and imposing golden yellow flowers produced in abundance in late winter through to early spring. When not in flower, the plants can be identified by the characteristic leaves, each divided into three long leaflets.

Chappill JA, Wilkins CF, Crisp MD 2008 Taxonomic revision of *Gompholobium* (Leguminosae: Mirbelieae). Australian Systematic Botany 21(2): 67 – 151.

Crisp, M. The Pea Key. About Australian Pea-flowered legumes: https://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/peakey/key/The%20Pea%20Key/Media/Html/about_peas.html

Smith JE 1798 The characters of twenty new genera of plants. Transactions of the Linnean Society of London 4: 213--223.

Distribution map modified from: Atlas of Living Australia:

http://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrence/search?q=lsid%3Aurn%3Aalsid%3Abiodiversity.org.au%3Aapni.taxon%3A693090#tab_mapView

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