

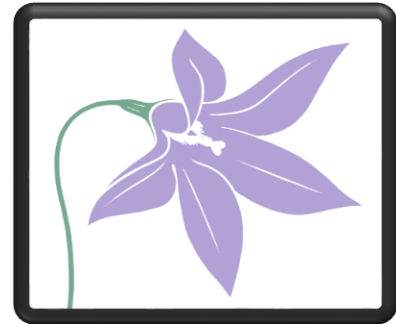
State Floral Emblem Lesson: ACT

Royal Bluebells

Wahlenbergia gloriosa

Let's Get Started

Wahlenbergia gloriosa is commonly known as the Royal Bluebell which is an Australian wildflower that grows in all states except Western Australia. It flourishes profusely in rocky sites and grasslands, in sub-alpine woodland, in the Australian Capital Territory, as well as in South-East New South Wales and Victoria. It is legally protected in the wild. It can be found in South America and New Zealand too.



Royal Bluebell

The flower was named in honour of G. G. Wahlenberg, a professor of Botany, in Sweden. The plant belongs to the Campanulaceae family which is the family name for bellflowers.

The ACT was the only state without a floral emblem, so a committee was formed to decide on one. They unanimously recommended the Royal Bluebell to be the floral emblem of the ACT. On the 26th May 1982, Hon. Michael Hodgman, Minister for the ACT, announced the wildflower as the winner.

The bell flowers balance delicately on tall, single stems and the leaves are congregated on the lower stem. The leaves are oblong in shape with scalloped edges and measure around 2-3cm long.

The flowers range in colours from blue-violets, sky-blues to light pinks. They are tubular in shape and measure 2-3cm's across with five pointed petals and stamens. The petals are edible and can be added to salads. Royal Bluebells flower from October to March. It has spreading rhizomes which make it a great ground cover.

The Royal Bluebell can be propagated through seed, division and cuttings in spring and autumn. They like light, draining soil with plenty of organic matter and prefer the soil to be damp. They grow well in semi shade positions.

Further Exploring:

[Floral Emblems of Australia](#)

[Australian Floral Emblems](#)

Related Links

[Pictures of Bluebells](#)

Nature Ramble

On your nature ramble today, search for late summer/autumn wildflowers or orchids. Once you've found one, take a photo for your journal. Measure the plants flowers, leaves and height. What colour are the flowers? How many petals and stamens are there? What shape are the leaves? Are the leaves opposite or alternate to each other? What shade of green are they? What type of soil is the plant growing in? Is the spot sunny or shady? Do you think the plant is hardy? Identify your plant. You can use the Key Guide to Australian Wildflowers by Leonard Cronin. If you're unable to find any wildflowers in your area. Choose one from your yard to study instead.

Literature Jaunt

Fiction

[Australian Nature Story Collection](#): The Flower Fairies by Amy Mack.

Non-Fiction

Key Guide to Australian Wildflowers by Leonard Cronin.

Poetry Picnic

[Bluebells by Valerie Dohren](#)

A Scripture:

“The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the Word of our God remains forever.” Isaiah 40:8

A Hymn:

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee [lyrics](#) and [music](#).

Picture Study

[Bluebell Woodlands Path Trees by Janet M. Graham](#)

Digging Deeper

Young Students:

- Print the Bee and Bluebell colouring page to colour.
- [Do this](#) fun bluebell footprint art.
 - With green paint sponge the underside of your feet. Make a stamp of your footprint on white paper. Try to point your feet outwards to represent the leaves.
 - Using a paint brush, paint the stem out from the footprint centre.
 - Using either light pinks, violet or sky-blue paints, sponge the underside of your top foot which includes your toes and the bridge just below.
 - Standing on tip toes place your prints on the stem. Your toes will represent the five petals of the bluebell. Messy fun!
- Draw the bluebell outline. Perhaps a parent can do this for you. Then tear blue or pink tissue paper to paste within the outline to fill it with colour. Use green tissue paper for the leaves. Alternately, take coloured paper to tear and use a mosaic technique to fill the bluebell in. [Like this project](#).
- Buy a packet of wildflower seed to plant a patch in your yard.

Older Students:

- Print the Bee and Bluebell colouring page to colour.
- Print the State Floral Emblem notebook page to complete.
- Have fun making [a Bluebell Egg Carton Flower](#).
- Draw the wildflower you studied on your nature ramble inside your journal. Label it, and add the place you found it with the date. Perhaps, next year you'll find it again.
- Take a photo of the flower you studied and paste it into your journal. Label it and write a few facts you learned about it.
- [Artventure](#) has an art project for the ACT Floral Emblem. Hop on over if you're a member and paint it.

Oldest Students:

- Make a scientific sketch [like this one](#) of the flower you studied in your journal. Write some facts about the plant. Label it. Include the date, place and time you found it.
- Take photos of the plant you studied from different angles. Try to get close and clear photos of all its parts. Add them to your journal or make a power point slide. Include the facts you've learned.
- Print the State Floral Emblem notebook page to complete.
- Enjoy making this [origami bluebell](#).
- [Draw a bluebell flower](#) using pastels.

State Floral Emblem: ACT

Royal Bluebell

Wahlenbergia gloriosa



Sketch the floral emblem above.

Plant Family:

Date:

Location:

Flower Shape and Size:

Leaf Shape and Size:

Fruits:

Plant Height:

Habitat:

Planting Season:

Flowering Season:

State Floral Emblem:

ACT



Sketch the floral emblem above.

Common Name:

Kingdom:

Order:

Family:

Genus:

Species:

Flowering Season:

Habitat:

Date:

Location:

NATURE COLOURING PAGE

