

# Hardy Highveld Plants

- a useful guide of what to plant where •
- for landscapers and the avid gardener •

compiled by

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FIRST EDITION – August 2006

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**NOTE:** Although care has been taken to be as accurate as possible, neither the author nor the publisher make any expressed or implied representation as to the accuracy of the information contained in this book and cannot be held legally responsible or accept liability for any errors or omissions. Some plants are highly toxic and may cause injury or even death. The author and publisher can also not be held responsible for claims arising from the mistaken identity of plants or their inappropriate use.

## Introduction

*Why plant indigenous?* It is the worldwide trend to plant native plants and, it is the right thing to do. *Local is lekker!* It is waterwise and makes sense!

Choose your plants carefully and research where these plants occur naturally. Plants from the Cape will need to be watered in the winter and if you just **have** to have those from Mpumalanga and Kwazulu Natal, they will definitely need protection during the winter months.

This booklet only covers those plants that occur naturally on the Highveld. It makes sense to plant these as they are adapted to coping with our harsh winters. Bear in mind, that the young trees will be less frost resistant than an older or larger specimens, so if you have a very exposed planting area, buy the biggest tree that you can afford.

*Gardening and Planting is a wonderful hobby!* The best way to learn is to get out into nature, take a notebook, a camera and some reference books. Observe how closely Mother Nature has planted her garden and notice what grows alongside each other. The challenge is to re-create nature in your own garden.

Never underestimate frost! At Grow Wild we have frost on a daily basis during winter - and had we known what we know now, we never would have bought the property. Most of the Highveld was originally grassland, which means that it is frosty and cold. Many people think that indigenous plants are automatically hardy to frost and drought and are low maintenance (The lazy homeowner's solution to a garden!). The stark reality is that there are only about five trees that are really hardy, and these are **Rhus lancea**, **Rhamnus prinoides**, **Diospyros lycioides**, **Leucosidea sericea** and **Euclea crispa**. However, if we have a black frost, these may also perish.

All the other trees that are listed in this book as *frost hardy* do receive protection in nature from rocks, over-hanging trees, long grass, a warm northern slope or the protection from being at the top of a hill. You can expect more frost if you live close to water or on the open grassland where winds cause damage.

When landscaping a garden, consider the following suggestions. Buildings and walls, tall trees and hedges offer protection. A southern slope and the southern side of a house are more prone to the cold winds that bring our frost. Having said that, the last black frost that we had arrived from the north!

When preparing for winter, we need to try to emulate nature by packing veld grass around the trunk of a newly planted tree for the first few winters. You can also plant a hardy 'nurse' tree in the same hole as a more sensitive specie, this will then be sacrificed once the trees are fully grown.

The Highveld seems to only ever get one shower of rain in the winter, so cut back on the watering. It should not be necessary to water at all in the winter, but if you should have to water, be sure to only water in the morning and rather have a long soaking watering session less frequently than more frequent surface watering. You need to water the roots and beyond the roots to encourage them to grow.

Have fun and happy planting!

Gretchen

## Hardy Trees for Initial Planting

**Acacia ataxacantha** *Flame Thorn* SA Tree No. 160

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds, for thorny barriers, containers. Beautiful red pods, wood is split into strips for baskets.

**Acacia burkei** *Black Monkey Thorn* SA Tree No. 161

Deciduous tree, (medium), sun, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds, mammals, for thorny barriers, aggressive roots. Said to attract lightning, gum is edible, medicinal, roots produce yellow dye, hard wood.

**Acacia caffra** *Common Hook Thorn* SA Tree No. 162

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, creamy-white flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for thorny barriers, containers, bonsai, aggressive roots. A graceful tree with feathery foliage that gives the tree a weeping shape, used to make tobacco pipes, bark makes brown dye, medicinal and magical.

**Acacia erubescens** *Blue Thorn* SA Tree No. 164

Deciduous tree, (small), drought resistant, sun, white/pink flowers in Summer, for hedging/screening, thorny barriers. Bark rough, peeling in yellow paper layers.

**Acacia galpinii** *Monkey Thorn* SA Tree No. 166

Deciduous tree, (large), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, red/purple flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for thorny barriers, containers, aggressive roots. It has large, black, hooked thorns that make it an ideal addition to a security hedge, bark makes rope.

**Acacia hebeclada** *Candle Thorn* SA Tree No. 170

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds, for hedging/screening, aggressive roots. The bark is fissured and flaking.

**Acacia karroo** *Sweet Thorn* SA Tree No. 172

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for containers, aggressive roots. Medicinal properties, bark used to tan leather red, firewood, gum eaten by bushbabies, seeds are a coffee substitute. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Acacia mellifera** *Black Thorn* SA Tree No. 176

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, white/pink flowers in Spring, attracts birds, mammals, aggressive roots. Twigs are used as toothbrushes.

**Acacia nigrescens** *Knob Wood* SA Tree No. 178

Deciduous tree, (medium), drought resistant, sun, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds, mammals, for thorny barriers, bonsai. Magical, fodder tree, used for fencing posts.

**Acacia rehmanniana** *Silky Thorn* SA Tree No. 182

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, cream flowers in Summer, attracts birds, for hedging/screening. Attractive grey-green, velvety leaves.

**Acacia robusta** *Splendid Acacia* SA Tree No. 183

Deciduous tree, (large), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, for hedging/screening, thorny barriers, containers, non-aggressive roots. Bark used to make twine.

**Acacia sieberiana var. Woodii** *Paperbark Thorn* SA Tree No. 187

Deciduous tree, (large), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for hedging/screening, thorny barriers, containers, aggressive roots. Flat crown, edible gum, medicinal, bark produces grey dye.

**Acacia tortilis** *Umbrella Thorn* SA Tree No. 188

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for containers, bonsai, aggressive roots. Medicinal bark, edible gum, firewood, grazed.

**Buddleja saligna** *False Olive* SA Tree No. 636

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, for hedging/screening, containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Most attractive for a small garden, medicinal, hard wood.

**Buddleja salvifolia** *Sagewood* SA Tree No. 637

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for hedging/screening, containers, aggressive roots. Use as a nurse plant to protect other plants in very cold areas, magical.

**Calpurnia aurea** *Wild Laburnum* SA Tree No. 219

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers all year, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for hedging/ screening, containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Grown in Europe for hundreds of years, medicinal, ideal for a small garden.

**Cassine aethiopica** *Kooboo-Berry* SA Tree No. 410

Evergreen tree, (medium), drought resistant, sun, fragrant yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds, mammals. Edible fruit, brown dye from the bark, medicinal, hard wood for household items.

**Celtis africana** *White Stinkwood* SA Tree No. 39

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Wood used for furniture, unpleasant smell when first cut hence common name, magical.

**Combretum erythrophyllum** *River Bushwillow*

SA Tree No. 536

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow/white flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, mammals, for wetlands, non-aggressive roots. Yellow to red autumn colours, gum used as varnish and roots produce brown dye.

**Combretum molle** *Velvet Bushwillow*

SA Tree No. 537

Deciduous tree, (medium), sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, mammals. Leaves used for red fabric dye and roots for yellow fabric dye, medicinal.

**Dais cotinifolia** *Pompon Tree* SA Tree No. 521

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, sun, pink/mauve flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, non-aggressive roots. Masses of very showy fragrant pink, pom-pom like flowers, bark woven and used for rope.



**Dodonaea angustifolia** *Sand Olive* SA Tree No. 437

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers in Autumn, attracts birds, butterflies, for hedging/screening, containers. Many medicinal uses, grows easily and prunes well.

**Dombeya rotundifolia** *Wild Pear* SA Tree No. 471

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, cream flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for containers, non-aggressive roots. Fire resistant, upright tree, bark for rope and flowers are a love potion, medicinal.

**Dovyalis zeyheri** *Wild Apricot* SA Tree No. 511

Evergreen tree, (medium), sun, greenish/yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds, for containers, non-aggressive roots. Good for pools/paving. Edible fruit.

**Ehretia rigida** *Puzzle Bush* SA Tree No. 657

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, fragrant lilac flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for hedging/screening, thorny barriers, containers, non-aggressive roots. Branches used for bows and fishing baskets, strong wood, medicinal and magical. Edible fruit.

**Faidherbia albida (Acacia albida)** *Ana Boom*

SA Tree No. 159

Deciduous tree, (large), frost resistant, sun, yellow flowers in December, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for containers, aggressive roots. Bark strips are used as dental floss, medicinal and fish poison. Edible gum and fruit.

**Greyia sutherlandii** *Natal Bottlebrush*

SA Tree No. 446

Deciduous tree, (small), drought resistant, sun, red flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies. Interesting, rugged looking, magnificent, brilliant red flowers.

**Heteromorpha trifoliata** *Parsley Tree*

SA Tree No. 568

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, sun, yellow/ green flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies. Roots and leaves used in traditional medicine.

**Kiggelaria africana** *Wild Peach* SA Tree No. 494

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, non-aggressive roots. Street tree with attractive fruit, wood for furniture, medicinal.

**Leucosidea sericea** *Ouhout* SA Tree No. 145

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, for wetlands, aggressive roots. Lovely in a townhouse garden.

**Ochna serrulata** *Mickey Mouse Bush*

SA Tree No. 479.1

Evergreen tree, (small), drought resistant, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, for hedging/screening, containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Medicinal, decorative small tree being ideal for a small garden.

**Olea europaea subsp. africana** *Wild Olive*

SA Tree No. 617

Evergreen tree, (medium), frost resistant, sun, white/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for bonsai, aggressive roots. Edible fruit. Protected in South Africa, medicinal, fine wood for turning.

**Peltophorum africanum** *Weeping Wattle*

SA Tree No. 215

Deciduous tree, (large), frost resistant, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds, mammals, for bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Roots and bark used medicinally, wood utilised.

**Rhamnus prinoides** *Dogwood* SA Tree No. 452

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, green flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, for hedging/screening, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Good near fish ponds, glossy leaves, medicinal, leaves used in beer and wine making, protects against lightening.

**Rhus lancea** *Karee* SA Tree No. 386

Evergreen tree, (medium), frost resistant, sun, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, non-aggressive roots. Protected in Northern Cape and Jacobsdal District in Free State, fruit edible and used to make mead. Leaves produce brown dye.

**Rhus leptodictya** *Mountain Karee* SA Tree No. 387

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Good shade and street tree.

**Rhus pyroides** *Fire Thorn / Common Wild Currant*

SA Tree No. 392

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, non-aggressive roots. Useful Highveld specie for a game farm.

**Salix mucronata** *Safsaf Willow* SA Tree No. 36

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for wetlands, aggressive roots. Plant near a pond, medicinal and magical uses.

**Ziziphus mucronata** *Buffalo Thorn* SA Tree No. 447

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, non-aggressive roots. Protected in Free State, important medicinal and magical tree, edible fruit.

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## **Plant only after the initial trees are established**

### **Apodytes dimidiata** *White Pear/Bird's-Eye*

SA Tree No. 422

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, fragrant white flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, non-aggressive roots. Leaves boiled as spinach, poles for hut building, fish kraals and furniture. Ideal for small gardens.

### **Berchemia zeheri** *Red Ivory* SA Tree No. 450

Deciduous tree, (medium), drought resistant, sun, fragrant yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds, mammals. Browsed by game, bark eaten by porcupine, edible berries, medicinal, strong muthi against evil spirits.

### **Calodendrum capense** *Cape Chestnut*

SA Tree No. 256

Evergreen tree, (medium), drought resistant, semi-shade, pink flowers in Autumn, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, non-aggressive roots. Magnificent terminal sprays of pink flowers in early summer, magical.

### **Canthium mundianum** = **Canthium gilfillanii** *Rock Alder*

SA Tree No. 710

Evergreen tree, (small), drought resistant, sun, semi-shade, fragrant greenish flowers in Spring. Edible fruit, hard wood used for fencing posts and tools.

**Cassinopsis ilicifolia** *Lemon Thorn* SA Tree No. 420

Evergreen tree, (small), drought resistant, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds, mammals, for water, hedging/screening, thorny barriers, containers, non-aggressive roots. Spiny, medicinal, edible.

**Clematis bractiata** *Traveller's Joy*

Deciduous shrub, (2m), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, white flowers in Summer. Lovely climber, pretty in flower and seed. Medicinal and a good luck charm.

**Clerodendrum glabrum** *White Cats Whiskers*

SA Tree No. 667

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, for hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Leaves are rubbed onto hands and face to repel bees when collecting honey, poles for hut building, medicinal, ideal for a small garden.

**Cussonia paniculata** *Highveld Cabbage Tree*

SA Tree No. 563.1

Evergreen tree, (small), sun, green flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, non-aggressive roots. Thick stem and attractive, drooping grey leaves. The thick tuberous roots are peeled and eaten raw as an emergency food or as a source of water, medicinal, ideal for a small garden.

**Cussonia spicata** *Common Cabbage Tree*

SA Tree No. 564

Evergreen tree, (small), fast growing, sun, green/yellow flowers in Autumn, attracts birds, mammals, aggressive roots. Decorative, lovely form plant with bright green leaves crowded at the tips of the branches, ideal for a small garden.

**Cussonia transvaalensis** *Transvaal Cabbage Tree*

SA Tree No. 564.3

Evergreen tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, greenish-yellow flowers in Spring-Summer, attracts birds. Single stem and sparsely branched crown.

**Diospyros lycioides var guerkei**

*Transvaal Bluebush* SA Tree No. 605.2

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, sun, cream flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. One of the most widely distributed plants in South Africa, roots produce brown dye, medicinal.

**Diospyros whyteana** *Bladder-Nut* SA Tree No. 611

Evergreen tree, (small), semi-shade, white/yellow flowers in Winter, attracts birds, mammals, for hedging/screening, containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Seeds good substitute for coffee, medicinal, hard wood.

**Erythrina lysistemon** *Common Coral Tree*

SA Tree No. 245

Deciduous tree, (large), sun, semi-shade, red flowers in Winter-Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, aggressive roots. The bark is medicinal, traditionally planted after birth of a son, lucky beans.

**Euphorbia ingens** *Common Tree Euphorbia*

SA Tree No. 351

Evergreen tree, (large), fast growing, sun, semi-shade, greenish flowers in Autumn, attracts birds, mammals, for hedging/screening, thorny barriers, containers. Sap in very poisonous, medicinal, striking structural plant.

**Ficus sur** *Broom Cluster Fig* SA Tree No. 50

Evergreen tree, (large), sun, attracts birds, mammals, for wetlands, aggressive roots. Fast growing, if well watered.

**Halleria lucida** *Tree Fuchsia* SA Tree No. 670.2

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, orange flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Lovely drooping habit, excellent garden subject, medicinal and magical. Edible fruit, ideal for a small garden.

**Myrsine africana** *Cape Myrtle* SA Tree No. 577.1

Evergreen tree, (small), sun, semi-shade, pink flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, for water. It enjoys cold and temperate areas with moderate rainfall.

**Pappea capensis** *Jacket-Plum* SA Tree No. 433

Deciduous tree, (small), sun, semi-shade, pale green flowers in Summer, attracts birds, mammals, non-aggressive roots. Good for baldness and ringworm, fruit for jam, seeds for oil, also used for guns and make soap.

**Pavetta gardeniifolia** *Common Bride's Bush*

SA Tree No. 716

Deciduous tree, (small), drought resistant, sun, fragrant white flowers in Summer, attracts birds, mammals, for containers. Masses of white flowers in December make it a stunning sight, edible fruit, ideal for a small garden.

**Pittosporum viridiflorum** *Cheesewood*

SA Tree No. 139

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, sun, cream/yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds, mammals, for containers, non-aggressive roots. Bark is medicinal and an aphrodisiac, lovely garden tree.



**Rhoicissus tridentate** *Bushman's Grape*

Deciduous shrub, (3m x 1.5m), sun, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies. Cover a trellis or use in a hanging basket.

**Zanthoxylum capense** *Small Knobwood*

SA Tree No. 253

Deciduous tree, (large), sun, semi-shade, cream flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for containers, non-aggressive roots. Protected in Free State, seeds used to make perfume, bark used for toothbrushes.

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## Shrubs

### **Acokanthera oppositifolia** *Bushman's Poison*

SA Tree No. 639

Evergreen tree, (small), sun, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, for thorny barriers, containers, non-aggressive roots. Contains poisonous milky latex and poisonous berries. Used medicinally, ideal for a small garden.

### **Aloe arborescens** *Krantz Aloe* SA Tree No. 28.1

Evergreen shrub, (2m x 2m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, orange flowers in Winter, attracts birds, butterflies, for thorny barriers, containers. Medicinal, leaf sap for burns. Ideal for a small garden.

### **Aloe greatheadii (Aloe dayvana)** *Aloe Davyana*

Evergreen groundcover, (20 x 40cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, orange flowers in Winter, attracts birds, for thorny barriers, containers. Leaf sap used to heal burns, beautiful mass planted.

### **Aloe marlothii** *Mountain Aloe* SA Tree No. 29.5

Evergreen shrub, (3m x 1m), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, orange flowers in Winter, attracts birds, butterflies, for containers. Striking single stem, roots produce dye, children suck nectar from the flowers.

### **Aloe verecunda** *Modest Aloe*

Evergreen groundcover, (25cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, orange flowers in Summer, for containers. Highveld specie occurring in grasslands.

**Aloe zebrine**

Evergreen groundcover, (1m x 1m), frost resistant, sun, pink/dull red flowers in Summer, for containers. Medicinal uses, roots used as yellow dye to colour baskets.

**Barleria obtuse** *Bush Violet*

Evergreen shrub, (1m x 1m), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, mauve flowers in Autumn, attracts butterflies, mammals, for containers. Cut back after flowering.

**Carissa bispinosa** *Num-Num* SA Tree No. 640.1

Evergreen tree, (small), drought resistant, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for water, non-aggressive roots. Roots used for toothache, edible fruit.

**Chrysanthemoides monilifera** *Bush Tick Berry*

Evergreen shrub, (2 x 2.5), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Autumn, attracts birds, butterflies, non-aggressive roots. Fruits are eaten by children, medicinal uses.

**Erythrina zeheri** *Ploughbreaker*

Deciduous shrub, (60cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, red flowers in Summer. Good luck charm for barren women, seeds used for necklaces.

**Euclea crispa** *Blue Guarri* SA Tree No. 594

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals. Slow growing, roots for brown dye, medicinal.

**Gardenia volkensii** *Transvaal Gardenia*

SA Tree No. 691

Evergreen tree, (small), sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, mammals. Wood hard and fine grained, medicinal and magical.

**Grewia flavescens** *Sandpaper Raisin*

SA Tree No. 459.2

Evergreen tree, (small), sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds, mammals. Found from Kwazulu Natal to Arabia and India.

**Grewia occidentalis** *Cross-Berry* SA Tree No. 463

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, sun, pink flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, non-aggressive roots. A garden must! Edible fruit. Used to make beer. Bark - shampoo prevents grey hair, magical and medicinal.

**Halleria lucida** *Tree Fuchsia* SA Tree No. 670.2

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, orange flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Lovely drooping habit, excellent garden subject, medicinal and magical. Edible fruit. Ideal for small gardens.

**Pavetta gardeniifolia** *Common Bride's Bush*

SA Tree No. 716

Deciduous tree, (small), drought resistant, sun, fragrant white flowers in Summer, attracts birds, mammals, for containers. Masses of white flowers in December make it a stunning sight, edible fruit, ideal for a small garden.

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## Hardy Highveld Plants

## Groundcovers

### **Agapanthus inapertus** *Drooping Agapanthus*

Deciduous groundcover, (1m -1.2m), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, blue flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, for containers. It occurs naturally in very cold grasslands and makes a good garden subject.

### **Bulbine abyssinica** *Golden Stars*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.3m - 0.6m), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, yellow flowers in Summer. Ideal as a rockery or bedding plant.

### **Carissa green carpet** *Small Num-Num*

Evergreen groundcover, (30 x 30cm), semi-shade, fragrant white flowers all year, attracts birds, for thorny barriers, containers. A favourite of landscapers for mass planting.

### **Cerototheca triloba** *Wild Foxglove*

Deciduous shrub, (1m), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, mauve flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies. Visited by bees, medicinal.

### **Chaetecanthus setiger** *Fairy Stars*

Evergreen groundcover, (20cm), fast growing, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for containers. Low spreading groundcover, small white flowers.

### **Crinum bulbispermum** *Orange River Lily*

Deciduous groundcover, (1 x 1), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for wetlands. Sweetly scented, dramatic in flower, medicinal, water garden.

### **Crinum macowanii** *River Lily*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m - 1.2m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink/white flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for wetlands. Bulb is used medicinally, scented flower, delicate pink, water garden.

**Cyphostemma lanigerum** *Wildedruif*

Deciduous shrub, (2m), frost resistant, drought resistant, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds. Highveld special, pretty in fruit.

**Dierama medium** *Medium Harebell*

Deciduous groundcover, (1m x 1m), frost resistant, sun, pink flowers in Summer, for wetlands. Burning in winter promotes flowering.

**Eucomis autumnalis** *Pineapple Flower*

Deciduous groundcover, (0.75x 0.75), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for containers. Many medicinal uses, lovely flower for the vase.

**Gladiolus dalenii** *Gladiolus*

Deciduous groundcover, (20 - 80cm), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, orange flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for containers. Bushpigs eat the corms, rope made from the leaves, medicinal value.

**Haemanthus humilis** *Rabbit's Ears*

Deciduous groundcover, semi-shade, pink flowers in Summer. Medicinal.

**Hesperantha coccinea (was Schizostylis coccinea pink)**

*Scarlet River Lily*

Evergreen groundcover, (50cm x 20cm), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, white, pink or red flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for wetlands, containers. Looks stunning next to a pond or water feature in damp conditions.

**Plectranthus aliciae = Plectranthus madagascariensis**

*Variegated Plectranthus*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.15 x 0.4), drought resistant, fast growing, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, for containers. Cheerful spreading groundcover, hanging baskets or indoor plant.

**Scadoxus puniceus** *Paintbrush*

Deciduous groundcover, (0.5 x 0.3), frost resistant, drought resistant, shade, semi-shade, red flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for containers. Beautiful mass planted under trees, red seeds follow, poisonous bulb, medicinal.

**Setaria megaphylla** *Broad-Leaved Bristle Grass*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for wetlands. Eaten by dogs and antelope.

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## Pond and Wetland Plants

### **Berula erecta** *Toothache Root*

Evergreen groundcover, frost resistant, sun, white flowers in Summer, for wetlands, water. Rhizomes used for toothache.

### **Crinum bulbispermum** *Orange River Lily*

Deciduous groundcover, (1 x 1), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for wetlands. Sweetly scented, dramatic in flower, medicinal, water garden.

### **Crinum macowanii** *River Lily*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m - 1.2m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink/white flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for wetlands. Bulb is used medicinally, scented flower, delicate pink, water garden.

### **Dierama medium** *Medium Harebell*

Deciduous groundcover, (1m x 1m), frost resistant, sun, pink flowers in Summer, for wetlands. Burning in winter promotes flowering.

### **Gomphostigma virgatum** *Otterbush*

Evergreen shrub, (1 x 1m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, fragrant white flowers all year, attracts butterflies, for wetlands. Medicinally used to perk up tired people.

### **Gunnera purpensa** *Wild Rhubarb*

Deciduous shrub, (1m), frost resistant, sun, red flowers in Spring, for wetlands, water. Stems and roots peeled and eaten, medicinal value, attractive foliage.

### **Hesperantha coccinea (was Schizostylis coccinea pink)** *Scarlet River Lily*

Evergreen groundcover, (50cm x 20cm), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, white, pink or red flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for wetlands, containers. Looks stunning next to a pond or water feature in damp conditions.

**Ilex mitis** *Cape Holly* SA Tree No. 397

Evergreen tree, (medium), fast growing, sun, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds, for wetlands, non-aggressive roots. Good street tree or on a lawn, leaves produce a lather, medicinal, wood for furniture.

**Leucosidea sericea** *Ouhout* SA Tree No. 145

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, for wetlands, aggressive roots. Lovely in a townhouse garden.

**Phragmites australis** *Common Reed*

Evergreen shrub, frost resistant, sun, for wetlands, water. Rhizomes are eaten, hollow stems are pipes and musical instruments, seeds make ointment for burns.

**Rhamnus prinoides** *Dogwood* SA Tree No. 452

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, green flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, for hedging/screening, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Good near fish ponds, glossy leaves, medicinal, leaves used in beer and wine making, protects against lightening.

**Salix mucronata** *Safsaf Willow* SA Tree No. 36

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for wetlands, aggressive roots. Plant near a pond, medicinal and magical uses.

**Schoenoplectis corymbosis**

Evergreen groundcover, (1m), frost resistant, sun, brownish flowers in Summer, for wetlands. Used for weaving sleeping mats.

**Setaria megaphylla** *Broad-Leaved Bristle Grass*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for wetlands. Eaten by dogs and antelope.

**Typha capensis** *Bulrush*

Deciduous groundcover, (2m x 60cm), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, brownish flowers in Summer, attracts birds, mammals, for wetlands, water, containers. Rhizomes are used for meal, medicinal, leaves for brooms, weaving and thatching.

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## Grassland Species occurring in Full Sun and with Rocks

### ***Ammocharis coranica*** *Seeroogblom*

Deciduous groundcover, (1m x 1m), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, fragrant pink flowers in Summer. Excellent for dry spots and rockeries.

### ***Boophane disticha*** *Tumbleweed*

Deciduous groundcover, (1m x 1m), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, red flowers in Spring, for containers. Twisted fan shaped leaves are distinctive, medicinal, poisonous. Protected plant.

### ***Crinum graminicola*** *Grass Crinum*

Deciduous groundcover, (40cm), sun, pink flowers in Summer, for wetlands. Highveld specie, worth searching for.

### ***Dichrostachys cinerea*** *Sickle Bush* SA Tree No. 190

Deciduous tree, (small), drought resistant, sun, pink/yellow flowers in Spring. Durable hard wood, leaves, roots and bark are used medicinally, firewood.

### ***Diospyros lycioides var guerkei***

*Transvaal Bluebush* SA Tree No. 605.2

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, sun, cream flowers in Spring, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. One of the most widely distributed plants in South Africa, roots produce brown dye, medicinal.

**Erythrina zeheri** *Ploughbreaker*

Deciduous shrub, (60cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, red flowers in Summer. Good luck charm for barren women, seeds used for necklaces.

**Eucomis autumnalis** *Pineapple Flower*

Deciduous groundcover, (0.75x 0.75), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for containers. Many medicinal uses, lovely flower for the vase.

**Ficus ingens** *Red-Leaved Rock Fig* SA Tree No. 55

Deciduous tree, (large), sun, attracts birds, mammals, for containers, bonsai, aggressive roots. Edible fruit, stunning Autumn foliage.

**Hypoxis hemerocallidea** *Star Flower*

Deciduous groundcover, (50 x 50cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, yellow flowers in Spring-Summer, attracts butterflies, for containers. Popular medicinal plant, leaves produce a black dye.

**Mundulea sericea** *Cork Bush* SA Tree No. 226

Evergreen tree, (small), drought resistant, sun, mauve/purple flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals. Twigs used as toothbrushes. Beautiful bark is used as an insecticide and fish poison, leaves used to bleach hair. Medicinal.

**Pappea capensis** *Jacket-Plum* SA Tree No. 433

Deciduous tree, (small), sun, semi-shade, pale green flowers in Summer, attracts birds, mammals, non-aggressive roots. Good for baldness and ringworm, fruit for jam, seeds for oil, also used for guns and make soap.

**Rhus dentatea** *Nana-Berry* SA Tree No. 381

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, sun, fragrant yellow/green flowers in Spring, attracts birds, non-aggressive roots. Edible fruit.

**Rhus leptodictya** *Mountain Karee* SA Tree No. 387

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds, butterflies, mammals, for hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Good shade and street tree.

**Rhus zeheri** *Blue Currant* SA Tree No. 396.1

Deciduous tree, (2m), drought resistant, sun, yellow flowers in Summer. Distinctive bluish coloured leaves and shiny bark.

**Rothmannia capensis** *Cape Gardenia*

SA Tree No. 693

Evergreen tree, (medium), sun, semi-shade, fragrant white flowers in Summer, attracts mammals, for containers. Flowers scented even when dry, medicinal, decorative, wood utilised, ideal for a small garden.

**Senecio barbetonicus** *Succulent Bush Senecio*

Evergreen shrub, (2m), drought resistant, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts mammals. Useful succulent in a garden.

**Tarchonanthus camphorates** *Camphor Bush*

SA Tree No. 733

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, cream flowers in Autumn, attracts butterflies, mammals, for hedging/screening, bonsai, aggressive roots. Wood used for musical instruments, medicinal, controls soil erosion.

**Vangueria infausta** *Wild Medlar* SA Tree No. 702

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, sun, cream flowers in Spring, attracts birds, mammals, non-aggressive roots. Fruit is used to distil brandy and is edible, roots medicinal, considered unlucky so the wood is not used.

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## Hardy Highveld Plants



## Witwatersrand Grass Species

**Aristida junciformis** *Gongoni Three-awn*

Height: 75cm. Habitat: open grassland, vleis, clay soil, no grazing value, used for brooms.

**Aristida congesta** *White Stick Grass*

Height: 90cm. Habitat: disturbed places, any soil, no grazing value.

**Bewsia biflora** *False Love Grass*

Height: 1m. Habitat: open grassland, stony slopes, any soil. Attractive.

**Brachiaria serrata** *Velvet Signal Grass*

Height: 75cm. Habitat: stony places, undisturbed veld, indicates good veld conditions.

**Chloris virgata** *Feathertop Grass*

Height: 50cm. Habitat: Disturbed places, all soil, but mostly clay, seasonal pans, palatable.

**Cymbopogon excavatus** *Broad Leaved Turpentine Grass*

Height: 1.5m. Habitat: Most soil types, disturbed and undisturbed veld, unpalatable, pioneer, thatching.

**Digitaria monodactyla** *One-Finger Grass*

Height: 50cm. Habitat: open grassland, sandy soil, disturbed veld, stabilises soil.

**Digitaria tricholaenoides** *Purple Finger Grass*

Height: 1m. Habitat: open grassland, gravelly soil, undisturbed veld, indicates good veld conditions.

**Diheteropogon amplexans** *Broad-Leaved Bluestem*

Height: 15m. Habitat: open grassland, poor gravelly soil on slopes, palatable.

**Elionurus muticus** *Wire Grass – Sour Grass*

Height: 1m. Habitat: open sour grassland, sandy soil, over-grazed veld. Unpalatable.

**Eragrostis capensis** *Hear-Seed Love Grass*

Height: 1m. Habitat: vlei areas, moist soil, sand loam or clay, palatable.

**Eragrostis chloromelas** *Curry Leaf*

Height: 80cm. Habitat: stony slopes, sandy and loam soil, palatable.

**Eragrostis curvula** *Weeping Love Grass*

Height: 1.2m. Habitat: disturbed places, high rainfall, palatable, soil stabiliser.

**Eragrostis gummiflua** *Gum Grass*

Height: 90cm. Habitat: open grassland, damp places, sandy and gravelly soil. Brooms.

**Eragrostis racemosa** *Narrow Heart Love Grass*

Height: 60cm. Habitat: shallow sandy or gravelly soil in damp places, disturbed, palatable.

**Heteropogon contortus** *Spear Grass*

Height: 1m. Habitat: gravelly and well drained soil, slopes, palatable.

**Harpochloa flax** *Caterpillar Grass*

Height: 90cm. Habitat: stony slopes, undisturbed areas, palatable.

**Loudetia simplex** *Common Russet Grass*

Height: 1m. Habitat: open grassland, edges of vleis, stony slopes.

**Monocrymbium cerasiiforme** *Boat Grass*

Height: 60cm. Habitat: slopes, leached acidic soil, sandy soil in damp areas, palatable.

**Melinis nerviglumis** *Bristle-Leaved Red Top*

Height: 90cm. Habitat: Undisturbed, shallow, gravelly soil on slopes. Attractive.

**Panicum natalense** *Natal Panicum*

Height: 80cm. Habitat: well drained sandy and sand-loamed soil, unpalatable.

**Perotis patens** *Cat's Tail*

Height: 60cm. Habitat: disturbed places, poor sandy soil, unpalatable.

**Schizachyrium sanguineum** *Red Autumn Grass*

Height: 1.2m. Habitat: any soil, damp areas, unpalatable, thatching.

**Setaria sphacelata var. torta** *Creeping Bristle Grass*

Height: 50cm. Habitat: well drained soil on stony slopes, palatable, prevents soil erosion.

**Setaria nigrirostris**

Height: 1m. Habitat: open grassland, turf soil, bushveld.

**Themeda triandra** *Red Grass*

Height: 1.5m. Habitat: undisturbed soil, mostly clay soil, indicates good veld conditions, palatable.

**Trachypogon spicatus** *Giant Spear Grass*

Height: 1.5m. Habitat: undisturbed grassland, sandy and gravelly soil, near vleis, unpalatable.

**Tristachya leucothrix** *Hairy Trident Grass*

Height: 90cm. Habitat: stony slopes, marshy places, sandy soil, unpalatable.

**Urelytrum agropyroides** *Quinine Grass*

Height: 1.6m. Habitat: stony slopes in sandy damp soil, unpalatable.

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Hardy Highveld Plants

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