

# Fast Growing Plants

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

compiled by

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## Introduction

We are so often asked for the fastest growing trees and shrubs. I can understand how impatient one is when one has moved to a brand new garden and there are no tall trees or green leaves to look at. When we moved to Glenferness I never considered that we were moving to 7 acres of grassland and all we had for a garden was 1.5m tall grass. We frantically started planting trees and worked hard to choose ones that would please the birds too. We'd previously lived in Rivonia with lovely big trees and a garden full of birds so those were the two things that I missed the most.

Bear in mind that the speed at which your trees will grow is also dependent on the growing conditions. We have typical Highveld soil, with seams of oukclip. Trees find great difficulty breaking through the oukclip. The other problem with oukclip is that if we have heavy rains, the water is trapped and I've seen trees rot because of this. We can't see where the seams of oukclip are so just have to hope for the best. Frost also has to be considered and we cover the trunks with veld grass to protect the trees in the Winter. Hessian can also be used for this purpose.

To encourage good growth, dig a square hole that is wider and deeper than the bag and water the hole

## Fast Growing Plants

well by filling it and allowing the water to penetrate the surrounding soil. Add compost and superphosphate (for root growth), some bonemeal or fertilizer pills and water well once a week. It is better to water once a week for an hour than do a daily 10 minute watering, as we need to encourage the roots to go deep down into the soil. I always like to mulch with pebbles, veld grass, horse manure or commercial mulch to help retain the moisture in the soil.

Finally, take an annual photo of your garden so that you will see the progress and be encouraged to be patient while your fast growing trees are growing far too slowly for your liking!

Happy gardening,  
Gretchen

## EVERGREEN GROUNDCOVERS

### **Agapanthus nana** *Miniature Blue/White Agapanthus*

Evergreen groundcover, (25 - 35cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, white/blue flowers all year, attracts birds - nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. It is impressive in mass planting or borders along flowerbeds and paths. Ideal for small gardens.

### **Agapanthus praecox** *Common Agapanthus*

Evergreen groundcover, (1.5 x 0.75m), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, white/blue flowers in Summer, attracts birds - nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Clump forming, medicinal uses. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

### **Aloe dyeri** *Shade or Dyer's Aloe*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m x 1m), frost resistant, fast growing, shade, semi-shade, red flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, for containers. Thrives in shade with tall red inflorescence. Ideal for small gardens.

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

Evergreen groundcover, (20 x 40cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, orange flowers in Winter, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, for containers. Leaf sap used to heal burns, beautiful mass planted. Ideal for small gardens.

### **Aloe mudenensis** *Muden's Aloe*

Evergreen groundcover, (50cm x 50cm), drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow-red flowers in Winter, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters. Occurs in Northern Natal. Ideal for small gardens.

**Aloe striata** *Coral Aloe*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m x 1m), drought resistant, fast growing, sun, deep coral flowers in Winter, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, for containers. Distinctive coral coloured stripe down the edges of the leaves. Ideal for small gardens.

**Aponogeton distachyos** *Waterblommetjie*

Evergreen groundcover, (30cm), fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, for water. Flowers cooked in stews, juice from the leaf for burns and sunburn. Ideal for small gardens.

**Aptenia cordifolia** *Brakvygie*

Evergreen groundcover, (15 x 60cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, pink flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, attracts butterflies. Medicinal, vigorous, fast-spreading, prevents soil erosion. Ideal for small gardens.

**Arctotheca calendula** *Cape Weed*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.1 x 0.4), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers all year, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies. Yellow daisies all year, hardy groundcover, prevents soil erosion, lawn substitute. Ideal for small gardens.

**Aristea ecklonii** *Blue Stars*

Evergreen groundcover, (50 x 25cm), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, blue flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for wetlands. Mass plant in semi shade for a dramatic effect, medicinal. Ideal for small gardens.

**Asparagus densiflorus mazeppa** *Foxtail Fern*

Evergreen groundcover, (25 x 60cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, for containers. Lovely mass planted or in hanging baskets, flower arrangements. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal foliage for the vase.

**Asparagus densiflorus-sprengeri** *Basket Asparagus*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.3 x 0.1), fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Bright green groundcover, good for hanging baskets. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Asparagus falcatus** *Sickle Thorn*

Evergreen groundcover, (2m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Autumn, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, for containers. Thrives in dry shade. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal foliage for the vase.

**Asparagus virgatus** *Broom Asparagus*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m), drought resistant, fast growing, semi-shade, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, for thorny security barriers, containers. Does well under trees. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal foliage for the vase.

**Asystasia gangetica** *Creeping Foxglove*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.3 x 0.6), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Spreads rapidly, mass plant, leaves used for spinach. Ideal for small gardens.

**Bulbine frutescens** *Stalked Bulbine*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.3 x 0.4), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, orange or yellow flowers all year, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies. Leaf gel has excellent healing properties for relieving stings, burns, rashes and cold sores. Popular with landscapers. Eaten as a relish. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Bulbine natalensis** *Broad-Leaved Bulbine*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m x 1m), fast growing, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Summer. Roots are used medicinally and leaves for topical healing. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Carpobrotus edulis** *Sour Fig*

Evergreen groundcover, (15cm x 90cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, pink flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters. Fruits are eaten raw, processed into jam or used in oriental cooking, leaves are medicinal. Ideal for small gardens.

**Chaetecanthus setiger** *Fairy Stars*

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

**Chlorophytum bowkeri**

Evergreen groundcover, (1m), fast growing, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, for wetlands. Lovely mass planted, quite dramatic. Ideal for small gardens.

**Chlorophytum comosum 'vittatum'** *Variegated Hen & Chickens*

Evergreen groundcover, (30cm x 30cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, semi-shade, white flowers all year, for containers. Mass plant, medicinal, hanging basket. Ideal for small gardens.



**Chlorophytum saundersiae**

**(Anthericum saunderisae)** *Weeping Anthericum*

Evergreen groundcover, (50 x 25cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Spring, attracts butterflies. Lovely as a mass planting, attracts bumble bees. Ideal for small gardens.

**Crassula expansa** *Fragile Crassula*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.5), drought resistant, fast growing, shade, white flowers all year, attracts butterflies, for containers. Spreads quickly and covers well. Ideal for small gardens.

**Crassula ovata** *Pink Joy*

Evergreen groundcover, (1.8 x 1.5m), drought resistant, fast growing, sun, pink flowers in Winter, attracts butterflies, for containers. The Khoi ate the roots, lovely show in flower. Ideal for small gardens.

**Crassula spathulata**

Evergreen groundcover, (50cm x 50cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, white flowers all year, for containers. Very fast growing, covers quickly, hanging baskets. Ideal for small gardens.

**Crinum macowanii** *River Lily*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m - 1.2m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, fragrant pink/white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for wetlands, water. Bulb is used medicinally, water garden. Ideal for small gardens.

**Crinum moorei** *Moore's Crinum*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m x 1m), frost resistant, fast growing, shade, semi-shade, fragrant pink flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for wetlands, water. Bulb is used medicinally, wetland garden. Ideal for small gardens.

**Cyperus prolifer** *Dwarf Papyrus*

Evergreen groundcover, (30cm x 15cm), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, brownish flowers all year, for wetlands, water, containers. Perfect for a small water feature, clump forming. Ideal for small gardens.

**Cyrtomium falcatum** *Holly Fern*

Evergreen groundcover, (60 x 60 cm), fast growing, shade, semi-shade, for wetlands. Beautiful fern for a water feature in the shade. Ideal for small gardens.

**Delosperma rogersii** *Mountain Vygie*

Evergreen groundcover, (12cm x 20cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, pink flowers in Summer, for containers. Flat growing carpet of pink, perfect for a townhouse garden, hanging baskets. Ideal for small gardens.

**Diascia integerrima** *Twinspur*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.3 x 0.4), fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink and white flowers all year, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Showy groundcover. Good to interplant with Watsonias. Used as a pot herb. Ideal for small gardens.

**Dierama pendulum** *Harebell*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m x 1m), frost resistant, fast growing, semi-shade, pink flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for wetlands, water. Attractive planted near a pond. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Dietes grandiflora** *Large Wild Iris*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for wetlands. Clump-forming, blooms when it rains. Ideal for small gardens.

**Dietes iridioides**

Evergreen groundcover, (30 - 40cm), frost resistant, fast growing, semi-shade, white flowers in Spring-Summer. Clump forming plant, beautiful white flowers with purple marking that close by midday except on overcast days. Ideal for small gardens.

**Dimorphotheca ecklonis**

**(was Osteospermum ecklonis)** *Blue-and-White Daisy Bush*

Evergreen groundcover, (75 x 75cm), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Spring-Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. White flowers have mauve under the petals and a dark blue centre. Striking in flower. Mass plant for effect. Ideal for small gardens.

**Dimorphotheca jucundum**

**(was Osteospermum jucundum)** *Trailing Mauve Daisy*

Evergreen groundcover, (20 x 60cm), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink/purple flowers in Autumn-Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Creeping daisy which covers banks quickly. Striking in flower and pretty cascading over rocks. Ideal for small gardens.

**Dymondia margaretae** *Silver Carpet*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.1 x 0.3), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers all year, attracts birds - insect eaters. Flat growing suitable for between pavers. Ideal for small gardens.

**Falckia repens** *White Carpet*

Evergreen groundcover, (5cm), fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Spring, for wetlands, containers. Flat growing, attractive, indigenous "Daisy Lawn". Ideal for small gardens.

**Felicia amelloides** *Blue Felicia*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.5 x 0.5), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, blue flowers all year, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Mass plant for effect. Ideal for small gardens.

**Felicia amelloides variegata** *Variegated Felicia*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.5 x 0.5), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, blue flowers all year, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Mass plant for effect. Ideal for small gardens.

**Gazania rigens** *Trailing Gazania*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.2 x 0.3), drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers all year, attracts butterflies, for containers. Roots used as a love charm, mass plant for effect. Ideal for small gardens.

**Geranium incanum** *Lace Leaf Geranium*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.3 x 0.3), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, mauve flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, for containers. Medicinal value. Ideal for small gardens.

**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. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Imperata cylindrica** *Cottonwool Grass*

Evergreen groundcover, (1.2m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Spring-Summer, attracts birds - seed eaters, for wetlands. Soil stabiliser, thatching, used for paper, fuel and rhizomes eaten. Ideal for small gardens.

**Kniphofia linearifolia** *Common Marsh Poker*

Evergreen groundcover, (1.5m), fast growing, sun, greenish yellow flowers in Autumn, for wetlands. Leaves yellowish to dull green. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Kniphofia pauciflora** *Dainty Poker*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m), fast growing, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, for wetlands. Lovely small flowers, unusual. Extinct in the wild. Ideal for small gardens.

**Kniphofia praecox** *Red-Hot Poker*

Evergreen groundcover, (1.5 x 1.5m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, orange/yellow flowers in Winter, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, for wetlands, water, containers. Stunning in flower, plant next to a pond or dam. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Kniphofia rooperi** *Winter Poker*

Evergreen groundcover, (1.4m), fast growing, sun, orange/yellow flowers in Winter, for wetlands. Medicinal, good garden subject Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Kniphofia uvaria** *Marsh Poker*

Evergreen groundcover, (1.5m x 1.5m), fast growing, sun, orange/yellow flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for wetlands. Similar to *Kniphofia linearifolia* with roundish inflorescens. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Lampranthus sp** *Vygies*

Evergreen groundcover, (30cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, all colours - flowers in Spring, attracts butterflies, for containers. Suitable for rockeries and to liven up a pathway. Ideal for small gardens.

**Lobelia alata**

Evergreen groundcover, (20cm), fast growing, semi-shade, blue flowers in Summer, for wetlands, water, containers. Mat-forming survives in water, wetlands and dry conditions. Ideal for small gardens.

**Lobelia cuneifolia**

Evergreen groundcover, (0.2 x 0.2), fast growing, shade, semi-shade, blue/purple flowers in Summer, for containers. Lovely in a hanging basket. Ideal for small gardens.

**Lobelia flaccida** *Wild Lobellia*

Evergreen groundcover, (30cm), fast growing, semi-shade, pale blue flowers in Summer, for wetlands, containers. Used as a pot herb. Ideal for small gardens.

**Mentha longifolia** *Wild Spearmint*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, fragrant white flowers in Summer, for wetlands. Many medicinal uses, fragrant leaves. Ideal for small gardens.

**Othonna carnosa** *Othonna*

Evergreen groundcover, (10cm x 60cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers all year, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies and insects, for containers. Spreads rapidly, often used by landscapers to cover banks and excellent for mass planting with Aloes. Ideal for small gardens.

**Plectranthus aliciae**  
**(was P.madagascariensis)** *Variegated Plectranthus*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.15 x 0.4), drought resistant, fast growing, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, for containers. Cheerful spreading ground cover, hanging baskets or indoor plant. Ideal for small gardens.

**Plectranthus ciliatus** *Speckled Spurflower*

Evergreen groundcover, (40cm), fast growing, semi-shade, white flowers with purplish dots - flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, for containers. Formerly used to wash sheepskin garments. Ideal for small gardens.

**Plectranthus neochilus** *Lobster Flower*

Evergreen groundcover, (50cm), drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, deep blue and purple flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, for containers. Purify the air of pollution. Ideal for small gardens.

**Plectranthus oertendali** *Silver-Leaved Spurflower*

Evergreen groundcover, (20cm), fast growing, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, for containers. A most attractive plant for mass planting and in hanging baskets. Ideal for small gardens.

**Plectranthus saccatus** *Stoep Jacaranda*

Evergreen groundcover, (80 x 80cm), drought resistant, fast growing, semi-shade, blue flowers in mid-Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Mass plant for effect, plant indoors where it will receive afternoon sunlight. Ideal for small gardens.

**Plectranthus verticillatus** *Gossip or Money Plant*

Evergreen groundcover, (20cm x 50cm), fast growing, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Mass plant in moist shade for effect. Ideal for small gardens.

**Pteris dentata** *Toothed Brake*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m x 1m), fast growing, shade, semi-shade, for wetlands, containers. The toothed lobes fold inwards, pretty at a water feature. Ideal for small gardens.

**Pteris vittata** *Banded Fern*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m x 1m), fast growing, semi-shade, for wetlands, containers. Lovely under trees but water frequently. Ideal for small gardens.

**Rumohra adiantiformis** *Knysna Fern*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m x 1m), fast growing, semi-shade, for wetlands, containers. Water frequently, fronds used by florists. Ideal for small gardens.

**Selago corymbosa** *Bitterblombos*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m), fast growing, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer. Plant in mixed border, cut back after flowering. Ideal for small gardens.



**Senecio macroglossus** *Flowering Ivy*

Evergreen groundcover, (3m x 1.5m), fast growing, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Grown in Europe since 1875, lovely climber. Ideal for small gardens.

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

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

**Stachys aethiopica** *Wild Sage*

Evergreen groundcover, (30 x 50cm), fast growing, semi-shade, white flowers in Spring-Autumn, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies. Medicinal, visited by bees, aromatic leaves. Ideal for small gardens.

**Tulbaghia violacea** *Wild Garlic*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.4 x 0.2), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, mauve flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies. Snake repellent and many traditional uses. Leaves eaten as a relish or a pot herb. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Zantedeschia aethiopica** *White Arum Lily*

Evergreen groundcover, (1.5 x 1), fast growing, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds - fruit eaters, attracts butterflies, for wetlands, water, containers. Medicinal value, tuber eaten, leaves produce a yellow dye. Used as a cooking vegetable. Ideal for small gardens.

**Zantedeschia green goddess** *Green Arum*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m), fast growing, shade, semi-shade, green flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for wetlands, containers. Eye-catching and dramatic. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

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## DECIDUOUS 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 - nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. It occurs naturally in very cold grasslands and makes a good garden subject. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

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

Deciduous groundcover, (1 x 1), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for wetlands. Sweetly scented, dramatic in flower, medicinal, water garden. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

### **Crocasmia aurea** *Falling Stars*

Deciduous groundcover, (1 x 0.3), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, shade, semi-shade, orange flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, mammals, for wetlands, containers. Medicinal, stunning in flower. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

### **Cyrtanthus mackenii** *Ifafa Lilly*

Deciduous groundcover, (15 - 20cm), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink, yellow and orange flowers in Winter. Used as a protective charm. Ideal for small gardens.

### **Drimiopsis maculata** *Spotted-Leaved Drimiopsis*

Deciduous groundcover, (25 cm), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Spring, for containers. Medicinal, indoor plant. Ideal for small gardens.

**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 birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Many medicinal uses, lovely flower for the vase. Ideal for small gardens.

**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. Ideal for small gardens.

**Gloriosa superba** *Flame Lily*

Deciduous groundcover, (1.5m x 1m), fast growing, semi-shade, yellow and orange flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters. Climbs up shrubs, pretty in flower, medicinal. Poisonous seeds. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Imperata cylindrica 'red baron'** *Japanese Blood Grass*

Deciduous groundcover, (30 x 45cm), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, attracts birds - seed eaters, for wetlands. Green red foliage that turns red from mid Summer to mid Winter. Highly sought after ornamental grass. Ideal for small gardens.

**Tulbaghia fragrans** *Fragrant Wild Garlic*

Deciduous groundcover, (0.4 x 0.2), frost resistant, fast growing, semi-shade, fragrant mauve flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. It does not smell of garlic and is scented. Ideal for small gardens.

**Typha capensis** *Bulrush*

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

**Zantedeschia albomaculata** *Arrow-Leaved Arum*

Deciduous groundcover, (40 - 50cm), fast growing, sun, semi-shade, white/pale yellow flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for wetlands, containers. Medicinal value, used as a cooking vegetable. Ideal for small gardens.

**Zantedeschia pentlandii** *Yellow Arum*

Deciduous groundcover, (40 - 50cm), fast growing, sun, yellow flowers in mid-Summer, attracts butterflies, for wetlands, containers. Yellow arum grows in full sun. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Zantedeschia rehmanni** *Pink Arum*

Deciduous groundcover, (45 x 20cm), fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink flowers in Summer, attracts birds - fruit eaters, attracts butterflies, for wetlands, containers. Grassland specie, flowers last well in the vase. Ideal for small gardens.

**Panicum maximum** *Guinea Grass*

Semi-Deciduous groundcover, (75cm to 1m), drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, attracts birds - seed eaters, for wetlands. Delicate flowering stems with creamy coloured seeds. Clump forming grass. A must in a bird garden with ponds and grassland. Ideal for small gardens.

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## EVERGREEN SHRUBS

### **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 - insect and nectar eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, for informal hedging/screening, thorny security barriers, containers. Leaf sap for burns, medicinal. Ideal flower for the vase.

### **Aloe ferox** *Bitter Aloe*

Evergreen shrub, (3m x 1m), fast growing, sun, orange flowers in Winter, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, for thorny security barriers, containers. Single-stemmed. Beautiful orange-red flowers. Healing sap. Exported for medicine trade. Ideal for small gardens.

### **Aloe globuligemma** *Knoppiesalwyn*

Evergreen shrub, (1m x 1m), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, red-white flowers in Winter, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, for thorny security barriers, containers. Beautiful bluish leaves and striking flowers. Ideal for small gardens.

### **Anisodonteia classic cerise** *Pink Mallow*

Evergreen shrub, (1.8 x 1.8m), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink flowers all year, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies. Survives normal winter drought. Lovely in a garden. Ideal for small gardens.

**Barleria obtusa** *Bush Violet*

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

**Brilliantasia subulgurica** *Giant Salvia*

Evergreen shrub, (2m x 2m), fast growing, semi-shade, purple flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies. Stunning in flower, but is frost tender and needs to be pruned in Winter. Ideal for small gardens.

**Chondropetalum tectorum** *Cape Thatching Reed*

Evergreen shrub, (2.5 x 1.5m), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, dark brown flowers in Summer, for wetlands, containers. Used for making brooms and for thatching roofs. Ideal for small gardens.

**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 - insect and fruit eaters, attracts butterflies, for informal hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Fruits are eaten by children, medicinal uses. Ideal for small gardens.

**Cyperus alternifolius** *Sedge*

Evergreen shrub, (1m), fast growing, sun, green flowers in Summer, for wetlands, water, containers. Similar to Cyprus textiles, used to make baskets, twine and mats. Ideal for small gardens.

**Cyperus papyrus** *Papyrus*

Evergreen shrub, (2m x 1m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, brownish flowers all year, for wetlands, water. In Botswana they use dried split stems to make mats, tropical looking. Ideal for small gardens.

**Dyschoriste rogersii** *Blue Joy*

Evergreen shrub, (50 x 50cm), fast growing, sun, blue flowers in Spring-Autumn, attracts butterflies. Mass plant in an informal border. Ideal for small gardens.

**Dyschoriste thunbergiiflora** *Purple Bells*

Evergreen shrub, (1.7 x 1.7m), fast growing, sun, semi-shade, violet-pink flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for containers. Striking flowers, looks lovely next to a water feature or pond. Ideal for small gardens.

**Freylinia tropica** *Blue Honeybell Bush*

Evergreen shrub, (1 x 1.5), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, blue/white flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening, containers. Undemanding plant that is great pruned as a formal hedge. Ideal for small gardens.

**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. Ideal for small gardens.

**Hibiscus calyphyllus** *Sun Hibiscus*

Evergreen shrub, (1.5m x 1.5m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Focal point in a small garden, or mass plant in a large area. Ideal for small gardens.



**Hypoestes aristata** *Ribbon Bush*

Evergreen shrub, (1.5 x 1), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, white/mauve flowers in Autumn, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies. Flowers profusely when nothing else is in flower. Undemanding, prune back at the end of Winter. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Juncus krausii** *Matting Rush*

Evergreen shrub, (1.5m x 1.5m), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, brownish flowers in Summer, for wetlands. Stems are woven into sleeping mats. Ideal for small gardens.

**Justicia capensis** *Businessman's Bush*

Evergreen shrub, (1m x 1m), fast growing, sun, semi-shade, mauve flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies. Traditionally used to attract business. Ideal for small gardens.

**Justicia petiolaris** *Blue Justicia*

Evergreen shrub, (0.1m - 1m), fast growing, shade, semi-shade, blue/mauve flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies. Unusual flowers. Ideal for small gardens.

**Leonotis leonurus** *Wild Dagga*

Evergreen shrub, (2 x 1.5), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, orange flowers in Autumn, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts butterflies. Medicinal plant, a must for a bird garden, cut back after Winter. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Metarungia longistrobis** *Sunbird Bush*

Evergreen shrub, (1.2m x 1m), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, orange flowers in Summer, attracts birds - used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, for informal hedging/screening, containers. Unusual in flower and loved by the sunbirds and butterflies, undemanding. Ideal for small gardens.

**Orthosiphon labiatus** *Pink Sage*

Evergreen shrub, (1.5 x 1.5), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, shade, semi-shade, mauve flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Stunning in flower. Mass plant for effect. Ideal for small gardens.

**Plectranthus ecklonii** *Large Spurflower Bush*

Evergreen shrub, (1.5 x 1.5), drought resistant, fast growing, shade, semi-shade, white, blue or mauve flowers in Autumn, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Lovely if mass planted at the back of a bed, traditional medicine. Ideal for small gardens.

**Plectranthus fruticosus** *Forest Spurflower*

Evergreen shrub, (1.25 x 0.5m), drought resistant, fast growing, shade, semi-shade, pink/purple flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, for water, containers. Rub the stems on a windowsill to repel flies, showy if mass planted. Ideal for small gardens.

**Plectranthus fruticosus-james** *Pink Fly Bush*

Evergreen shrub, (1 x 0.5), drought resistant, fast growing, shade, semi-shade, pink flowers in Autumn, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Mass plant under trees, cut back after flowering. Ideal for small gardens.

**Plectranthus mona lavender**

Evergreen shrub, (1m x 1m), fast growing, shade, semi-shade, mauve flowers in Autumn, attracts birds - insect eaters, for containers. Very attractive. Ideal for small gardens.

**Plectranthus zuluensis** *Zulu Spurflower*

Evergreen shrub, (2m), fast growing, shade, semi-shade, mauve flowers all year, attracts birds - insect eaters, for containers. Very pretty mauve, lovely in pots in the shade. Ideal for small gardens.

**Plumbago auriculata** *Cape Leadwort*

Evergreen shrub, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, blue flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening, containers. Roots and leaves for headaches, prunes well, favourite. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Plumbago auriculata alba** *Plumbago*

Evergreen shrub, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening, containers. Roots and leaves for headaches, prunes well, favourite. Ideal for small gardens.

**Podalyria calyptrate** *Sweetpea Bush*

Evergreen shrub, (3m x 3m), fast growing, sun, sweetly scented mauve flowers in Spring, attracts butterflies. Attractive grey foliage, useful in a mixed border. Ideal for small gardens.

**Polygala fruticosa** *Heart-Leaved Polygala*

Evergreen shrub, (1m x 1m), drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink flowers in Autumn. Medicinal. Ideal for small gardens.

**Polygala virgata** *Purple Broom*

Evergreen shrub, (2 x 1), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, purple flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies. Medicinal, plant at the back of a bed for height. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Senecio tamoides** *Canary Creeper*

Evergreen shrub, (5m), fast growing, sun, semi-shade, fragrant yellow flowers in Autumn, attracts butterflies. Medicinal, lovely climbing trees or a trellis. Ideal for small gardens.

**Sutherlandia frutescens** *Cancer Bush*

Evergreen shrub, (1.25m x 1m), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, bright orange flowers in Winter-Summer, attracts butterflies, for containers. Trials underway for this important medicinal plant. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Tecoma capensis** *Cape Honeysuckle*

Evergreen shrub, (2 x 3m), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, orange flowers in Spring and Summer, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies and insects, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening, containers. Beautiful bright green foliage, edible fruit. A must for a bird garden. Prune back in Winter. Medicinal uses. Ideal for small gardens.

**Thunbergia alata** *Black-Eyed Susan*

Evergreen shrub, (2m), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, orange flowers all year, attracts birds - insect eaters, for containers. Popular throughout the world. Ideal for small gardens.

**Thunbergia natalensis** *Natal Bluebell*

Evergreen shrub, (1 x 1), drought resistant, fast growing, shade, semi-shade, blue flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies. Traditional remedy for a happy marriage, stems eaten by mice. Ideal for small gardens.

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## DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

**Leonotis dubia** *Forest Leonotis*

Deciduous shrub (2m x 1.5m), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, orange flowers in Autumn, attracts birds - nectar eaters, attracts butterflies. Medicinal value. Ideal for small gardens.

**Nymphoides indica** *Water Lily*

Deciduous shrub (30 x 80cm), fast growing, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, for water. It is suitable for ornamental ponds and dams. Ideal for small gardens.

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## EVERGREEN TREES

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

SA Tree No. 422

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, fragrant white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Leaves boiled as spinach, poles for hut building, fish kraals and furniture. Ideal tree for small gardens.

### **Brachylaena discolor** *Wild Silver Oak* SA Tree No. 724

Evergreen tree, (medium), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, cream flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening. Early settlers used the ash to make soap. Zulu diviners use stems and roots to communicate with their ancestors. Wood used for carving.

### **Buddleja auriculata** *Weeping Sage*

SA Tree No. 636.5

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, fragrant cream flowers in Autumn, attracts birds – insect, fruit and nectar eaters, used by aquatic birds, attracts butterflies, for informal hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Graceful, plant near a pond. Leaves used as a tea. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, fragrant white flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, used by aquatic birds, attracts butterflies, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening, containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Most attractive for a small garden, medicinal, hard wood. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers all year, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening, containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Grown in Europe for hundreds of years, medicinal. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Combretum bracteosum** *Hiccup Nut* SA Tree No. 532.2

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, orange flowers in Spring, attracts birds - used for nesting sites, for informal hedging/screening, thorny security barriers. Beautiful in flower, fast screen, edible fruit said to cause or cure hiccups.

**Cunonia capensis** *Red Alder* SA Tree No. 416

Evergreen tree, (large), fast growing, sun, white flowers in Summer. New leaves are beautiful bronze. Wood used for furniture.

**Cussonia spicata** *Common Cabbage Tree* SA Tree No. 564

Evergreen tree, (small), fast growing, sun, green/yellow flowers in Autumn, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts mammals, aggressive roots. Decorative, lovely form plant with bright green leaves crowded at the tips of the branches. Ideal tree for small gardens.



**Deinbollia oblongifolia** *Dune Soap-Berry* SA Tree No. 430  
Evergreen tree, (small), drought resistant, fast growing, shade, white/cream flowers in Autumn, attracts mammals, for containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Attractive garden plant, a good container plant for indoors. Traditionally the seeds are used to make soap, the leaves eaten as spinach and the roots used medicinally. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Diospyros simii** *Climbing Star-Apple* SA Tree No. 609  
Evergreen tree, (small), drought resistant, fast growing, sun, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds - used for nesting sites. Edible fruit is orange-brown. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Dodonaea angustifolia** *Sand Olive* SA Tree No. 437  
Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers in Autumn, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening, containers. Many medicinal uses, grows easily and prunes well. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Dovyalis caffra** *Kei Apple* SA Tree No. 507  
Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, cream flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening, thorny security barriers, containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Fruit is sour, but tasty and used for jelly and jam making, grown worldwide as a hedge. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Ekebergia capensis** *Cape Ash* SA Tree No. 298  
Evergreen tree, (medium), fast growing, sun, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds - fruit eaters. Wood for furniture, medicinal and magical plant.

**Ensete ventricosum** *African Wild Banana* SA Tree No. 31  
Evergreen tree, (small), fast growing, sun, semi-shade, cream flowers in Spring, for containers. Lives about 10 years, then flowers and dies, stems are eaten. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Euphorbia ingens** *Common Tree Euphorbia* SA Tree No. 351  
Evergreen tree, (large), fast growing, sun, semi-shade, greenish flowers in Autumn, attracts birds - fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts mammals, for informal hedging/screening, thorny security barriers, containers. Sap is very poisonous, medicinal, striking structural plant.

**Freylinia lanceolata** *Honeybell Bush* SA Tree No. 670.1  
Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers all year, used by aquatic birds, attracts butterflies, for informal hedging/screening. Quick screen or informal hedge. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**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 – insect, fruit and nectar eaters, used for nesting sites, used by aquatic birds, attracts butterflies, mammals, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Lovely drooping habit, excellent garden subject, medicinal and magical. Edible fruit. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Harpephyllum caffrum** *Wild Plum* SA Tree No. 361  
Evergreen tree, (large), fast growing, sun, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds - fruit eaters, attracts butterflies, mammals. Edible fruits used for jam and jelly, bark is medicinal and produces pink dye, timber for furniture.

**Hypericum revolutum** *Curry Bush* SA Tree No. 484

Evergreen tree, (small), fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Summer, used by aquatic birds, for containers. Lovely, graceful plant that smells of curry. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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

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

**Kigelia africana** *Sausage Tree* SA Tree No. 678

Evergreen tree, (large), fast growing, sun, fragrant red flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, mammals. Medicinal and magical, street tree in Africa and Australia, stunning in flower.

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

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, used by aquatic birds, attracts butterflies, for wetlands, aggressive roots. Lovely in a townhouse garden. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Mackaya bella** *Forest Bell Bush* SA Tree No. 681.1

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, shade, semi-shade, mauve flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for informal hedging/screening, containers. Glossy dark green leaves, occurs along streams, wood used to make fire by friction. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Noltea africana** *Soap Dogwood* SA Tree No. 453

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies. It has been 'adopted' by the landscaping trade, perhaps for its versatility. Soapy lather made from the leaves.

**Nuxia floribunda** *Forest Elder* SA Tree No. 634

Evergreen tree, (small), fast growing, sun, semi-shade, fragrant white flowers in Autumn, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts mammals, non-aggressive roots. Good near pools, plant near a patio. Ideal for small gardens.

**Peddiea africana** *Green Flower Tree* SA Tree No. 517

Evergreen tree, (small), fast growing, sun semi-shade pale green flowers in Spring-Summer. Poisonous tree, bark used to make rope. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Polygala myrtifolia** *September Bush* SA Tree No. 302.1

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, pink flowers all year, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for informal hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Pretty in flower. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Portulacaria afra** *Elephant's Foot* SA Tree No. 104

Evergreen tree, (small), fast growing, sun fragrant pink flowers in Spring, attracts mammals, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening, containers, bonsai. Leaves browsed by game and eaten by children, controls soil erosion. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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

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

**Scutia myrtina** *Cat-Thorn* SA Tree No. 451

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds - fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for thorny security barriers. Browsed by game, edible fruit, leaves used medicinally. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Strelitzia nicolai** *Natal Wild Banana* SA Tree No. 34

Evergreen tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, purple/blue and cream flowers in Spring-Summer, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening, containers, aggressive roots. Used for rope, seeds are ground into flour and made into patties, which are roasted, do not plant near walls.

**Tarchonanthus camphoratus** *Camphor Bush* SA Tree No. 733

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

## DECIDUOUS TREES

**Acacia abyssinica** *Nyanga Flat Top* SA Tree No. 187

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for thorny security barriers. Has a flat crown with beautiful flaky bark.

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

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

**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 - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for thorny security 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 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 - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for thorny security barriers, containers, aggressive roots. It has large, black, hooked thorns that make it an ideal addition to a security hedge, bark makes rope.

**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 - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for thorny security barriers, containers, aggressive roots. Medicinal properties, bark used to tan leather red, firewood, gum eaten by bush babies, seeds are a coffee substitute.

**Acacia natalitia** *Coastal Sweet Thorn* SA Tree No. 172

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, fragrant yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts mammals, for thorny security barriers. Excellent for game lodge, light shade, does not drop thorns.

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

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, cream flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, for thorny security barriers. Attractive grey-green, velvety leaves. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**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 - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, for thorny security 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 - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for thorny security barriers, containers, aggressive roots. Flat crown, edible gum, medicinal, bark produces grey dye.

**Acacia xanthophloea** *Fever Tree* SA Tree No. 189

Deciduous tree, (medium), fast growing, sun, semi-shade, fragrant yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for water, thorny security barriers, containers, non-aggressive roots. Medicinal bark, edible gum, timber for boxwood.

**Albizia adianthifolia** *Flatcrown* SA Tree No. 148

Deciduous tree, (large), fast growing, sun, shade, white flowers in Autumn, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, mammals. Provincial tree of Natal, wood used for turning, poles for hut building, bark is medicinal.

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

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

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

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

**Clausena anisata** *Horsewood* SA Tree No. 265

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, attracts butterflies, non-aggressive roots. Medicinal and magical, leaves used to flavour curry. Ideal tree for small gardens.



**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 - fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, for informal hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Leaves are rubbed onto hands and face to repel bees when collecting honey, poles for hut building, medicinal. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Combretum erythrophyllum** *River Bushwillow* SA Tree No. 536  
Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow/white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, used by aquatic birds, attracts butterflies, mammals, for wetlands, non-aggressive roots. Yellow to red autumn colours, gum used as varnish and roots produce brown dye.

**Combretum krausii** *Forest Bushwillow* SA Tree No. 540  
Deciduous tree, (small), fast growing, sun, green flowers in Spring. Glossy dark green leaves that turn vivid red and purple in Autumn. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Dais cotinifolia** *Pompon Tree* SA Tree No. 521  
Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, pink/mauve flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, non-aggressive roots. Masses of very showy fragrant pink, pom-pom like flowers, bark woven and used for rope. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Diospyros lycioides var guerkei**

*Transvaal Bluebush* SA Tree No. 605.2

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, cream flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening, containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. One of the most widely distributed plants in South Africa, roots produce brown dye, medicinal. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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

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

**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 - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening, thorny security barriers, containers, non-aggressive roots. Branches used for bows and fishing baskets, strong wood, medicinal and magical. Edible fruit. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, pink flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Garden must. Edible fruit. Used to make beer. Bark - shampoo prevents grey hair, magical and medicinal. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds - fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, used by aquatic birds, attracts butterflies, for informal hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Street tree with attractive fruit, wood for furniture, medicinal. Attracts the Garden Acraea butterfly.

**Rhus chirindensis** *Red Currant* SA Tree No. 380

Deciduous tree, (large), frost resistant, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, non-aggressive roots. Beautiful Autumn foliage, edible fruit, medicinal, wood for furniture.

**Rhus pendulina** *White Karee* SA Tree No. 396

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, for informal hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Protected in South Africa, popular street tree, has edible fruit.

**Rhus pyroides** *Fire Thorn* SA Tree No. 392

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, drought resistant, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening, thorny security barriers, 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, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, used by aquatic birds, attracts butterflies, mammals, for wetlands, aggressive roots. Plant near a pond, medicinal and magical uses. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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## Further Reading and Reference Sources

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