

# Indigenous Waterwise Gardening

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

compiled by  
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## Introduction

We all need to be more responsible in terms of our water usage. Planting Indigenous goes a long way towards reducing water needs but this isn't the end if it.

This booklet contains plants that are undemanding and will require very little water once they are established. It is always sensible to mulch well after planting as this will ensure that there is no evaporation.

Bear in mind that it is advisable to plant those species that occur naturally in your area. This will reduce the need for water as they are adapted to being rain dependant. If you want to plant those special plants that do require more water than most, then plant them all together so that they can be watered more regularly than the rest of the garden. This way you will be saving water, time and the disappointment of losing plants through lack of water.

Enjoy the planning and select carefully so that your garden will not be a water guzzler.

Happy gardening,  
Gretchen

## EVERGREEN GROUNDCOVERS

**Agapanthus nana** *Miniature Blue/White Agapanthus*  
Evergreen groundcover, (25 - 35cm), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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 affinis** *Common or Graskop Aloe*  
Evergreen groundcover, (20 x 40cm), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, coral red flowers in Winter, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Natural habitat destroyed by pine forests. Ideal for small gardens.

**Aloe greatheadii (A.dayvana)** *Aloe Davyana*  
Evergreen groundcover, (20 x 40cm), frost resistant, waterwise, 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), waterwise, 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), waterwise, 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.

**Aloe variegata** *Kanniedood*

Evergreen groundcover, (25cm), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, light to dark coral pink flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, for containers. Used medicinally for curing sores on fingers. According to old superstitions, if someone transplanted one of these aloes and it dies, that person will die too. Porcupines dig them out of the ground in great numbers. Ideal for small gardens.

**Aloe verecunda** *Modest Aloe*

Evergreen groundcover, (25cm), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, orange flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, for containers. Highveld specie occurring in grasslands. Ideal for small gardens.

**Aptenia cordifolia** *Brakvygie*

Evergreen groundcover, (15 x 60cm), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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.

**Asparagus densiflorus mazeppa** *Foxtail Fern*

Evergreen groundcover, (25 x 60cm), frost resistant, waterwise, 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-sprengerii** *Basket Asparagus*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.3 x 0.1), waterwise, 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 virgatus** *Broom Asparagus*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m), waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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.

**Becium obovatum** *Cat's Whiskers*

Evergreen groundcover, (30cm), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Spring, attracts butterflies. Occurs in grasslands. Ideal for small gardens.

**Bulbine abyssinica** *Golden Stars*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.3m - 0.6m), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, yellow flowers in Summer. Ideal as a rockery or bedding plant. Highveld specie. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Bulbine frutescens** *Stalked Bulbine*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.3 x 0.4), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Carpobrotus edulis** *Sour Fig*

Evergreen groundcover, (15cm x 90cm), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Chlorophytum comosum 'vittatum'**

*Variegated Hen and Chickens*

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

**Chlorophytum saundersiae**

**(Anthericum saundersiae)** *Weeping Anthericum*

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

**Cineraria saxifraga** *Wild Cineraria*

Evergreen groundcover, (15 x 40cm), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Spring-Autumn, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies. Soft herb, well drained soil. Good to cover banks. Ideal for small gardens.

**Clivia miniata** *Bush Lily*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.75 x 0.75), waterwise, shade, semi-shade, orange flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, for containers. Medicinal value. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Crassula expansa** *Fragile Crassula*

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

**Crassula multicava** *Fairy Crassula*

Evergreen groundcover, (20 x 30cm), waterwise, sun, shade, semi-shade, pink flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies. Lovely mass planted under trees. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Crassula ovata** *Pink Joy*

Evergreen groundcover, (1.8 x 1.5m), waterwise, 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, waterwise, fast growing, sun, shade, semi-shade, white flowers all year, for containers. Very fast growing, covers quickly, hanging baskets. Ideal for small gardens.

**Delosperma rogersii** *Mountain Vygie*

Evergreen groundcover, (12cm x 20cm), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Diets bicolor** *Yellow Wild Iris*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies. Clump-forming, graceful plant. Prefers a well-watered position. Ideal for small gardens.

**Diets grandiflora** *Large Wild Iris*

Evergreen groundcover, (1m), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Dymondia margaretae** *Silver Carpet*

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

**Felicia amelloides** *Blue Felicia*

Evergreen groundcover, (0.5 x 0.5), frost resistant, waterwise, 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), waterwise, 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, waterwise, fast growing, sun, semi-shade, mauve flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, for containers. Medicinal value. Ideal for small gardens.

**Lampranthus sp** *Vygies*

Evergreen groundcover, (30cm), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Othonna carnosa** *Othonna*

Evergreen groundcover, (10cm x 60cm), frost resistant, waterwise, 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), waterwise, 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), waterwise, 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), waterwise, 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 saccatus** *Stoep Jacaranda*

Evergreen groundcover, (80 x 80cm), waterwise, 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), waterwise, 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.

**Senecio macroglossus** *Flowering Ivy*

Evergreen groundcover, (3m x 1.5m), waterwise plant, 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.

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## DECIDUOUS GROUNDCOVERS

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

Deciduous groundcover, (1m -1.2m), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

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

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

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

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

### **Crocsmia aurea** *Falling Stars*

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

**Cyrtanthus mackenii** *Ifafa Lilly*

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

**Digitaria eriantha** *Common Finger Grass*

Deciduous groundcover, (1.8m), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, brownish flowers in Summer, attracts birds - seed eaters, attracts mammals. Controls soil erosion, palatable. Ideal for small gardens.

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

Deciduous groundcover, (25 cm), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Hypoxis hemerocallidea** *Star Flower*

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

**Panicum maximum** *Guinea Grass*

Semi-deciduous, groundcover, (75cm to 1m) waterwise, 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.

**Scadoxus puniceus** *Paintbrush*

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

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## EVERGREEN SHRUBS

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

Evergreen shrub, (1m x 1m), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

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

Evergreen shrub, (3m x 1m), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, orange flowers in Winter, attracts birds -insect and nectar eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, for thorny security barriers, containers. Striking single stem, roots produce dye, children suck nectar from the flowers. Ideal for small gardens.

### **Aloe speciosa** *Tilt-Head or Spanish Aloe*

Evergreen shrub, (3m), waterwise, sun, pink flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, for containers. Leaves produce pink dye, stunning in flower. Ideal for small gardens.

### **Aloe thraskii** *Dune Aloe*

Evergreen shrub, (2m - 4m), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, yellow/orange flowers in Winter, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters. Beautiful, single-stemmed. Ideal for small gardens.

**Anisodonteia classic cerise** *Pink Mallow*

Evergreen shrub, (1.8 x 1.8m), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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.

**Barleria repens Purple Prince** *Bush Violet*

Evergreen shrub, (1 x 1), frost resistant, waterwise, shade, semi-shade, purple flowers in Autumn, attracts butterflies, for containers. Mass plant under trees, informal borders, prune back after flowering. Ideal for small gardens.

**Chondropetalum tectorum** *Cape Thatching Reed*

Evergreen shrub, (2.5 x 1.5m), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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.

**Cotyledon orbiculata** *Pig's Ears*

Evergreen shrub, (20 x 30cm), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, pink flowers in Spring, attracts butterflies, for containers. Medicinal uses for toothache and earache, grey leaves are distinctive. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Euryops pectinatus** *Golden Daisy Bush*

Evergreen shrub, (1m x 1m), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Winter-Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. Low maintenance, cheerful addition to a bird garden. Ideal for small gardens.

**Felicia erigeroides** *Wild Michaelmas Daisy*

Evergreen shrub, (0.3 x 0.5), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, semi-shade, pink flowers all year, attracts birds - insect eaters, for containers. Attracts nectar feeding insects. Ideal for small gardens.

**Freylinia tropica** *Blue Honeybell Bush*

Evergreen shrub, (1 x 1.5), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Helichrysum petiolare** *Imphepho*

Evergreen shrub, (1m x 1m), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, white flowers in Spring, attracts butterflies, for containers. Beautiful grey foliage, medicinal and magical. Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Hypoestes aristata** *Ribbon Bush*

Evergreen shrub, (1.5 x 1), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Jasminum angulare** *Wild Jasmine*

Evergreen shrub, (7m), waterwise, fragrant white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - used for nesting sites. Fresh leaves poison sheep and cattle. Ideal for small gardens.

**Leonotis leonurus** *Wild Dagga*

Evergreen shrub, (2 x 1.5), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Melianthus comosus** *Small Melianthus*

Evergreen shrub, (1.5m x 1m), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, yellow/red flowers in Spring, attracts butterflies. Suitable for a mixed border, cut back after flowering.

**Melianthus major** *Giant Honey Flower*

Evergreen shrub, (2.5 x 3.5), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, shade, semi-shade, red flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, for wetlands. Lush looking blue green leaves, very dramatic in flower, medicinal uses. Ideal for small gardens.

**Metarungia longistrobus** *Sunbird Bush*

Evergreen shrub, (1.2m x 1m), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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), waterwise, 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), waterwise, fast growing, shade, semi-shade, pink/purple flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, 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), waterwise, 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.

**Plumbago auriculata** *Cape Leadwort*

Evergreen shrub, (medium), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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.

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

Evergreen shrub, (1m x 1m), waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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.

**Salvia africana lutea** *Brown Salvia*

Evergreen shrub, (1.8m x 1.8m), waterwise, sun, yellow, orange, brown flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters. Pretty grey foliage, suitable for a coastal garden. Ideal for small gardens.

**Senecio barbetonicus** *Succulent Bush Senecio*

Evergreen shrub, (2m), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts mammals. Useful succulent in a garden. Ideal for small gardens.

**Senecio tamoides** *Canary Creeper*

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

**Strelitzia reginae** *Crane Flower*

Evergreen shrub, (1.2m x 1.2m), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, orange and blue flowers in Autumn, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, for containers. This shrub is one of South Africa's most successful exports! Ideal for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

**Sutherlandia frutescens** *Cancer Bush*

Evergreen shrub, (1.25m x 1m), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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), waterwise, 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

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

Deciduous shrub, (1m), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, mauve flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies. Visited by bees, medicinal. Ideal for small gardens.

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

Deciduous shrub, (2m), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, white flowers in Summer, attracts, birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites. Lovely climber, pretty in flower and seed. Medicinal and a good luck charm. Ideal for small gardens.

### **Cyphostemma lanigerum** *Wildedruif*

Deciduous shrub, (2m), frost resistant, waterwise, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds - fruit eaters. Highveld special, pretty in fruit. Ideal for small gardens.

### **Erythrina zeheri** *Ploughbreaker*

Deciduous shrub, (60cm), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, red flowers in Summer, attracts, birds -insect eaters. Good luck charm for barren women, seeds used for necklaces. Ideal for small gardens.

### **Grewia robusta** *Karoo Cross-Berry*

Deciduous shrub, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, pink flowers in Winter-Summer, attracts mammals. Suitable for a game farm. Ideal for small gardens.

**Jasminum multipartitum** *Starry Wild Jasmine*

Deciduous shrub, (2m x 2m), waterwise, sun, fragrant white/pink flowers in Spring, attracts, birds - insect and nectar eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts, butterflies. Plant on a trellis at the patio. Ideal for small gardens.

**Leonotis dubia** *Forest Leonotis*

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

**Rhoicissus tridentata** *Bushman's Grape*

Deciduous shrub, (3m x 1.5m), waterwise, sun, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, attracts butterflies. Cover a trellis or use in a hanging basket. Ideal for small gardens.

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## Indigenous Waterwise Gardening

## EVERGREEN TREES

**Bauhinia galpinii** *Pride of De Kaap* SA Tree No. 208.2

Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, red/orange flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, mammals, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Baskets, medicinal uses, lovely in flower. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Bauhinia natalensis** *Natal Bauhinia* SA Tree No. 208.5

Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies. White flowers attract sunbirds and butterflies, grows in poor soil. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Buddleja auriculata** *Weeping Sage* SA Tree No. 636.5

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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.

**Calodendrum capense** *Cape Chestnut* SA Tree No. 256

Evergreen tree, (medium), waterwise, semi-shade, pink flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, non-aggressive roots. Magnificent terminal sprays of pink flowers. Magical.

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

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Canthium gilfillanii (was Canthium mundianum)**

*Rock Alder* SA Tree No. 710

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

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

Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, attracts butterflies, mammals, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening, thorny security barriers, non-aggressive roots. Roots used for toothache, edible fruit. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Carissa macrocarpa** *Large Num-Num* SA Tree No. 640.3

Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Spring - mid-Summer, 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. Makes good jam, fruit is highly nutritious, fruit produces pink dye, very attractive. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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

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

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

Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts mammals, for informal hedging/screening, thorny security barriers, containers, non-aggressive roots. Spiny, medicinal, edible. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Combretum bracteosum** *Hiccup Nut* SA Tree No. 532.2  
Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Croton gratissimus** *Lavender Fever Berry* SA Tree No. 328  
Evergreen tree, (medium), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, mammals, for containers. Medicinal uses, scattered orange leaves, drooping habit, perfume from the leaves.

**Cussonia paniculata** *Highveld Cabbage Tree*  
SA Tree No. 563.1  
Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, green flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts 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 tree for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase

**Cussonia transvaalensis** *Transvaal Cabbage Tree*  
SA Tree No. 564.3  
Evergreen tree, (medium), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, greenish-yellow flowers in Spring-Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites. Evergreen tree with a single stem and sparsely branched crown.

**Deinbollia oblongifolia** *Dune Soap-Berry* SA Tree No. 430  
Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, 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), waterwise, fast growing, sun, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds - used for nesting sites. Edible fruit is orange-brown. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Diospyros whyteana** *Bladder-Nut* SA Tree No. 611  
Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, semi-shade, white/yellow flowers in Winter, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts mammals, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening, containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Seeds good substitute for coffee, medicinal, hard wood. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Dodonaea angustifolia** *Sand Olive* SA Tree No. 437  
Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Dombeya burgessae** *Pink Wild Pear* SA Tree No. 468.1  
Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, pink flowers in Autumn, attracts mammals. Bark is used for fibre, beautiful as a 'roof' for a patio. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Dovyalis caffra** *Kei Apple* SA Tree No. 507  
Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Duvernoia adhatodoides** *Pistol Bush* SA Tree No. 681  
Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Autumn-Summer, attracts birds - used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening. Attractive with dark green leaves and brilliant white flowers. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Euclea crispa** *Blue Guarri* SA Tree No. 594  
Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds - fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals. Slow growing, roots for brown dye, medicinal. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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

**Gardenia cornuta** *Natal Gardnia* SA Tree No. 690.1  
Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, fragrant white flowers in Spring, attracts birds - used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening, containers. Magical - keeps away evil spirits, medicinal, wood for posts. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Gardenia thunbergia** *Starry Gardenia* SA Tree No. 692  
Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, fragrant white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening, containers. Starry gardenia requires acid soil, wood for tools, medicinal. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Gardenia volkensii** *Transvaal Gardenia*  
SA Tree No. 691  
Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening. Wood hard and fine grained, medicinal and magical. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Grewia flavescens** *Sandpaper Raisin* SA Tree No. 459.2  
Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds - used for nesting sites, attracts mammals. Found from Kwazulu Natal to Arabia and India. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Halleria lucida** *Tree Fuchsia* SA Tree No. 670.2  
Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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), waterwise, 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.

**Heteropyxis natalensis** *Lavender Tree*  
SA Tree No. 455  
Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, white/creamy flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts mammals, for containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Medicinal, leaves as a mouthwash, lovely Autumn foliage. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Mackaya bella** *Forest Bell Bush* SA Tree No. 681.1  
Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Mundulea sericea** *Cork Bush* SA Tree No. 226  
Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, mauve/purple flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, mammals. Twigs used as toothbrushes. Beautiful bark is used as an insecticide and fish poison, leaves used to bleach hair. Medicinal. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Ochna serrulata** *Mickey Mouse Bush* SA Tree No. 479.1  
Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, for informal hedging/screening, containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Decorative small tree, medicinal. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Olea europaea subsp. Africana** *Wild Olive*  
SA Tree No. 617  
Evergreen tree, (medium), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, white/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for formal pruned hedging, informal hedging/screening, bonsai, aggressive roots. Edible fruit, protected in South Africa, medicinal, fine wood for turning.

**Phyllanthus reticulatus** *Potato Bush* SA Tree No. 311  
Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, semi-shade, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds - fruit eaters, attracts mammals. Strong smell of potatoes in Spring, medicinal value, fruit produces black dye. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Podocarpus falcatus** *Natal Outeniqua Yellow Wood*  
SA Tree No. 16  
Evergreen tree, (large), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, for informal hedging/screening, containers, non-aggressive roots. In 1976 made SA National Tree, need a permit to cut down, Christmas tree, it has the smallest leaves but grows to be the tallest.

**Polygala myrtifolia** *September Bush* SA Tree No. 302.1  
Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Ptaeroxylon obliquum** *Sneezewood* SA Tree No. 292  
Evergreen tree, (medium), waterwise, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies. Burnt wood used to discover an evil doer.

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

Evergreen tree, (medium), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, informal hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Protected in Northern Cape & 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, waterwise, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Good shade and street tree. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Rhus pentheri** *Crowberry* SA Tree No. 391

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, yellow/green flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts mammals, non-aggressive roots. Useful tree on a game farm. Edible fruit. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Rothmannia globosa** *Bell Gardenia* SA Tree No. 695

Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, creamy white flowers in Spring-Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, attracts butterflies, mammals, for containers. Glossy dark green leaves, plant alongside a pond, hard wood. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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.

**Syzygium cordatum** *Water Berry* SA Tree No. 555

Evergreen tree, (large), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, fragrant white flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect, fruit and nectar eaters, used for nesting sites, used by aquatic birds, attracts butterflies, mammals, for wetlands, aggressive roots. Beautiful red/brown wood, many medicinal uses, bark produces orange dye and the fruits a purple dye.

**Tarchonanthus camphoratus** *Camphor Bush*

SA Tree No. 733

Evergreen tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Vepris lanceolata** *White Ironwood* SA Tree No. 261  
Evergreen tree, (small), waterwise, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening, non-aggressive roots. Porcupines eat the bark, medicinal, timber. Ideal for small gardens.

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## Indigenous Waterwise Gardening

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## DECIDUOUS TREES

**Acacia ataxacantha** *Flame Thorn* SA Tree No. 160  
Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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 erubescens** *Blue Thorn* SA Tree No. 164  
Deciduous tree, (small), waterwise, sun, white/pink flowers in Summer, attracts birds - used for nesting sites, for thorny security barriers. Bark rough, peeling in yellow paper layers.

**Acacia hebeclada** *Candle Thorn* SA Tree No. 170  
Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, for thorny security barriers, aggressive roots. The bark is fissured and flaking.

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

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, waterwise, 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 mellifera** *Black Thorn* SA Tree No. 176

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, white/pink flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts mammals, for thorny security barriers, aggressive roots. Twigs are used as toothbrushes.

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

Deciduous tree, (medium), waterwise, sun, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts mammals, for thorny security barriers, bonsai. Magical, fodder tree, used for fencing posts.

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

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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 tortilis** *Umbrella Thorn* SA Tree No. 188

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for thorny security barriers, containers, bonsai, aggressive roots. Medicinal bark, edible gum, firewood, grazed.

**Adansonia digitata** *Baobab* SA Tree No. 467

Deciduous tree, (large), waterwise, sun, white flowers in Spring, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts butterflies, mammals. Fruit pulp makes refreshing drink high in Vitamin C, medicinal, leaves cooked as spinach.

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

Deciduous tree, (medium), waterwise, sun, fragrant yellow flowers in Spring, attracts birds - fruit eaters, attracts mammals. Browsed by game, bark eaten by porcupine, edible berries, medicinal, strong muti against evil spirits.

**Bolusanthus speciosus** *Tree Wisteria* SA Tree No. 222

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, semi-shade, blue-violet flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts mammals, for containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Graceful tree, the name means '*beautiful*', medicinal, excellent wood. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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.

**Clerodendrum glabrum** *White Cats Whiskers*

SA Tree No. 667

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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 zeyheri** *Large-Fruited Bushwillow*

SA Tree No. 546

Deciduous tree, (medium), waterwise, sun, yellow flowers in Summer. Hard wood, decorative, medicinal.

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

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

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

Deciduous tree, (small), waterwise, sun, pink/yellow flowers in Spring, for thorny security barriers. 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, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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. Ideal flower for the vase

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

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

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

Deciduous tree, (large), waterwise, sun, attracts birds - insect and nectar eaters, attracts mammals, for containers, bonsai, aggressive roots. Edible fruit, stunning Autumn foliage.

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

Deciduous tree, (small), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Greyia sutherlandii** *Natal Bottlebrush* SA Tree No. 446

Deciduous tree, (small), waterwise, sun, red flowers in Summer, attracts butterflies. Interesting, rugged looking, magnificent, brilliant red flowers. Ideal tree for small gardens. Ideal flower for the vase.

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

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, waterwise, 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.

**Millettia grandis** *Umzimbeet* SA Tree No. 227

Deciduous tree, (medium), waterwise, sun, shade, semi-shade, mauve flowers in Spring, attracts butterflies, mammals, non-aggressive roots. Beautiful in flower and in seed, treatment for worms, beautiful dark brown wood for furniture.

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

Deciduous tree, (small), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, pale green flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts mammals, non-aggressive roots. Good for baldness and ringworm, fruit for jam, seeds for oil, also used to make soap. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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

SA Tree No. 716

Deciduous tree, (small), waterwise, sun, semi-shade, fragrant white flowers in Summer, attracts mammals, for formal pruned hedging, containers. Masses of white flowers in December make it a stunning sight, edible fruit. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Peltophorum africanum** *Weeping Wattle*

SA Tree No. 215

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

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

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, waterwise, 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, waterwise, 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.

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

Deciduous tree, (small), waterwise, sun, yellow flowers in Summer. Distinctive bluish coloured leaves and shiny bark. Ideal tree for small gardens.

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

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, waterwise, fast growing, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds - used by aquatic birds, attracts butterflies, mammals, for wetlands, aggressive roots. Plant near a pond, medicinal and magical uses. Ideal tree for small gardens.

**Schotia brachypetala** *Weeping Boerbean*

SA Tree No. 202

Deciduous tree, (large), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, shade, semi-shade, red flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect, fruit and nectar eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, non-aggressive roots. Bark used to make sangoma's red dye, to ward off evil, strikingly beautiful in flower. Seeds roasted and eaten.

**Spirostachys africana** *Tamboti* SA Tree No. 341

Deciduous tree, (medium), waterwise, sun, shade, semi-shade, white flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect and fruit eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for containers, bonsai, non-aggressive roots. Protected in South Africa, toxic fumes from the wood used in a fire causes severe illness, milky latex is poisonous, wood for furniture.

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

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

**Zanthoxylum capense** *Small Knobwood*

SA Tree No. 253

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

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

Deciduous tree, (medium), frost resistant, waterwise, sun, yellow flowers in Summer, attracts birds - insect, fruit and nectar eaters, used for nesting sites, attracts butterflies, mammals, for informal hedging/screening, thorny security barriers, non-aggressive roots. Protected in Free State, important medicinal and magical tree, edible fruit.

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## Further Reading and Reference Sources

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