

Steenbok Nature Reserve's Suggested Memorial Trees



FLOWER / FRUIT COLOUR INTERESTING FACTS / NAMES

Crotalaria capensis

Family Name: FABACEAE

Common names: Cape rattle-pod

Small, upright, fast growing tree with drooping branches. Attractive trifoliate leaves are bright green above and blue-green beneath, and the young growth is silvery blue.

The large, very pretty flowers have bright yellow petals which are often edged with red. They are borne in lovely long pendulous sprays at their best between October and April, but often found on the bush throughout the year. The fruit, borne January to June, are inflated hollow pods that are light brown when ripe. When the pods are dry, the ripe seeds rattle in the wind. **They are pollinated mainly by carpenter bees which make a soothing buzz as they collect pollen and nectar.**



Dodonaea viscosa var. angustifolia

Family Name: SAPINDACEAE

Common Name: Sand olive (Eng.); sandolien, ysterbos (Afr.)

An extremely hardy evergreen and fast growing shrub/small tree which grows well in both the Park and creek. **The flowers are small and the fruit is a winged capsule which produces a mass of rust/red colour towards the end of the year.**



Grewia occidentalis

Family Name: MALVACEAE

Common Name: Cross berry (Eng.); kruisbessie (Afr.)

A much branched, evergreen shrub or semi climber that grows in protected positions among other species of trees. An excellent example of this can be seen at the west end of the Creek. The small conspicuous **star-shaped pink flowers** grow in clusters of 1–3 among the leaves. The flowers are followed by distinctive four-lobed fruits (hence the common name cross-berry).

Many birds such as louries, mousebirds, bulbuls and barbets love to eat the ripe fruit, as well as humans!!! The leaves are also food to the larvae of the rufous-winged elfin butterfly (Eagris nottoana) and buff-tipped skipper (Netrobalane canopus).



Uses: **the ripe fruit can be dried (in areas where its sugar content is high), it can be boiled in milk (therefore making a bush milkshake!!). The wood from this shrub / tree is also perfect for bow making and spear shafts.**

Halleria lucida

Family: STILBACEAE

Common names: (Afr) Geelhoutkop, (Eng) Hilarious Lucy, Tree Fuchsia,

An evergreen, hardy tree/shrub with drooping branches. The pale grey bark is rough and longitudinally fissured. The leaves are opposite, simple, ovate, shiny bright green and have a finely toothed margin. It bears brick red to orange tubular flowers (up to 4cm long) which appear in clusters and grow off the branches, making them hidden along the leaves. The fruit is a round, fleshy green berry (10mm in diameter) which ripens to black. There is also a yellow-flowered variety.



Halleria lucida is regarded as one of the most valuable plants to have in a bird garden as it attracts sunbirds, white-eyes, thrushes, robins, pigeons, flycatcher, louries, mousebirds and barbets. It also attracts bees and butterflies.

Nuxia floribunda

Family Name: BUDDLEJACEAE

Common Name: Forest elder

A small to medium-sized very attractive tree. It usually has a single trunk and branches fairly low down into a dense, rounded canopy. It flowers profusely in winter producing much-branched fragrant, white flower sprays. The flowers are definitely the showy feature as it also attracts many bees to the garden. **Having a nice rounded canopy with lush green leaves all year round, this tree will continue to delight outside of the winter season as well.**



Ochna Serrulata

Family Name: Ochnaceae

Common Name: Mickey Mouse bush, carnival bush (Eng.); fynblaarrooihout (Afr.)

This small semi-deciduous to evergreen shrub is usually 1 to 2m in height, but can reach 6m. It has a slender stem with smooth, brown bark. The elliptical leaves are 13-50mm long and can be narrow with blunt or rounded tips and a rounded base. The toothed leaf margins have upright pointed teeth. In young spring foliage, the leaves are a stunning pinkish-bronze, turning to glossy green when mature. This small tree is covered with fragrant yellow blossoms in spring, from September to November, each flower about 20 mm in diameter and appearing at the branches' tips. Even though the petals drop quite soon, they make a stunning show while open. The fruits are attached to the sepals, which are persistent, and whilst the fruit has been developing, the sepals have enlarged and turned bright red, in most cases turning the whole bush red. **These fruits are suspended below bright-red sepals in a way that resembles the face of Mickey Mouse,** which is how *O. serrulata* gets its common name. This tree is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds which eat the fruit.



Polygala myrtifolia

Family Name: POLYGALACEAE

Common Name: September bush (Eng.); septemberbossie (Afr.)

This evergreen sprawling or erect shrub / tree grows well on Leisure Isle and in both SteenbokPark and KingfisherCreek. It flowers intermittently throughout the year but is at its best during spring (hence its common name) and summer.

The branches are densely covered with dark, oval shaped leaves resembling those of the myrtle – which is the meaning of myrtifolia : myrtle-like. The pink/purple flowers are carried in small clusters at the ends of short branches. These flowers are very striking and even though they resemble those of the pea family, they are very different: the lower keel-like petal has a brush-like tuft on it. The other major difference is that the Polygalas do not bear leguminous fruit but their seeds are enclosed in papery, flattened capsules which remain on the bush for some time during and after flowering.



Pterocelastrus tricuspidatus

Family Name: CELASTRACEAE

Common Name: Candlewood

Evergreen low-branching shrub or small tree occurring in coastal scrub and rarely on its own. It is low branching with a densely branched rounded canopy which may reach down to the ground. The flowers are small, fragrant, creamy-white and give way to conspicuous bright orange three-lobed fruit.



Rapanea melanophloeos

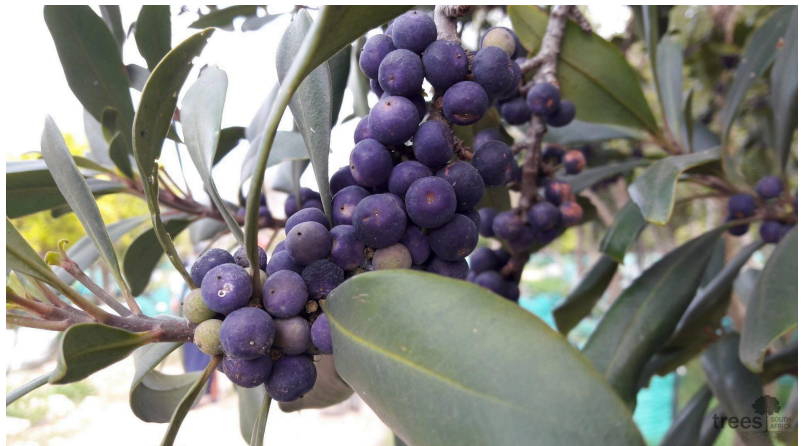
Family Name: MYRSINACEAE

Common Name: Cape beech

Boekenhout, as it is often called, is a medium to tall tree with a single trunk that branches down to form a fairly narrow, cone shaped canopy. Young leaves and twigs are purplish-red, and the leaf-stalks are dark purple.

The star-shaped flowers are crowded on the twigs and may be present at the same time as the fruit which grows on a short stalk and ripens from green to purple.

Star shaped white flowers.



Searsia chirindensis

Family Name: ANACARDIACEAE

Common Name: Red currant

This neat ornamental tree (a good example outside the main entrance to the Park) has a dense rounded crown of attractive glossy dark-green foliage that becomes orange in Autumn. Large sprays of minute yellow-green flowers are followed by a profusion of small lightly fleshy edible fruits.

Yellow Green Flowers.



Virginia oroboides subsp. oroboides

Family Name: FABACEAE

Common Name: Blossom tree (Eng.); keurboom (Afr.)

This widespread and fast growing plant can be seen in the Park as shrubs and also as stand alone trees. The trunk has a silvery-grey and smooth bark, long and slender with a sparse crown. The steeply ascending branches carry pale green foliage with pinnately compound leaves and have 6-12 pairs of leaflets as well as the terminal leaflets. The beautiful, sweetly scented flowers grow in short sprays at the end of branches and resemble those of the sweet-pea. Long, flat, brown, velvety pods are produced, turning black and splitting open to release between 2-6 seeds.

Flower colour light Purple.

