

**Common Calpurnia** <sup>[E]</sup> **Geelkeur** <sup>[A]</sup> **Natal Laburnum** <sup>[E]</sup> **insiphane-enkhulu** <sup>[Z]</sup> **umDlovana** <sup>[Z]</sup> **umLalandlovana** <sup>[Z]</sup> **umbethe** <sup>[X]</sup> **umbhaleni** <sup>[X]</sup> **umhlahlambedu** <sup>[Z]</sup> **umkhiphampethu** <sup>[Z]</sup> **undlole** <sup>[X]</sup>

**FABACEAE** *Calpurnia aurea*

**Type:** Shrub.  
**Source:** Endemic.  
**Flower:** Yellow. November until February.  
**Fruit:** Brown. November until February.  
**Leaves:** Evergreen with Green leaves.

**Biological Characteristics**

**Crown density:** Light.  
**Crown formation:** rounded.  
**Growth rate:** Medium.  
**Maximum height:** 10.00m.

**Management**

**Dormancy season:** Winter.  
**Water requirement:** Water when soil dry.

**Soil Requirements**

**Drainage requirements:** Normal.  
**Preferred growing medium:** Bark:Riversand:Soil 1:1:1.  
**Preferred soil type:** Sandy well drained soil rich in humus.

**Habits:** Shrub.  
**Habitats:** Broad-leaved Woodland, Cliffs, Coastal Forest, Escarpment Forest, Valley Bushveld.

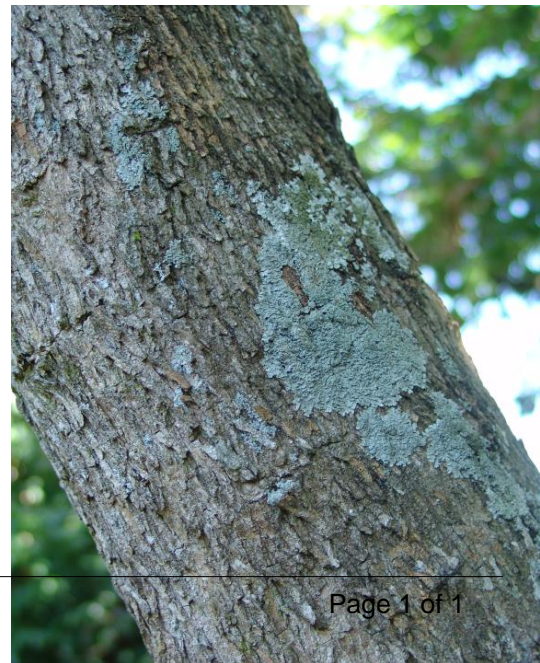
**Propagation methods:** Seed (Hard).

**Sun Requirements:** Sun.

**References:** Palgrave, Keith Coates revised by Meg "Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik* (2002), Page 355  
Pooley, Elsa "The Complete Field Guide to Trees of Natal Zululand and Transkei" *Natal Flora Publication Trust* (1993), Page 158

## About the Plant

This is one of our easiest shrubs to grow in gardens. It is ideally suited to the small gardens of modern city living. It likes a fairly sheltered but sunny spot in the garden and will delight you with its masses of yellow pea flowers in about three years from seed Anyone can grow this plant. Collect a dry seed pod from a shrub near you split open the pod, remove the amber coloured seeds about the size of a book-match head. Sow the seeds in a mixture of river sand and potting soil to the proportion of 1:1, keep the container in a sunny spot. Then wait the required 10-14 days for the seeds to germinate. When the seedlings have grown their third set of leaves, prick them out into a container with a volume of approximately 1 or 2 litres. Once the seedlings get to about 30 cm tall they are then ready to plant out in the garden. Grow them in groups for the best effect. Place them towards the back of a herbaceous or shrub border so that the plant can reach its ultimate height of 4 to 5 metres. The compound leaves are a blue-green colour that gives a pale appearance to the shrub. Calpurnias are partially deciduous especially if they are growing in very dry places. In fact they'll flower better if they are made to suffer a little during the dry winter dormant period. Again the plant will produce more flowers if it is in the sun rather than a semi-shaded spot. The flowers appear in the spring through summer and attract a never-ending stream of bumble-bees. The common name refers to the clusters of flowers that hang down like those of the yellow laburnum that one finds in temperate climates. I have one in my garden that has become the favourite place for my resident Spotted-Bush Snake to sun itself.



**Duineseepbessie** <sup>[A]</sup> **Dune Soap-berry** <sup>[E]</sup> **antiyisamasimu** <sup>[TH]</sup> **igololenkawu** <sup>[Z]</sup> **intisamasimu** <sup>[Z]</sup> **iphengulula** <sup>[Z]</sup> **iqinisa-masimu** <sup>[Z]</sup> **maqinisa** <sup>[Z]</sup> **umasibele** <sup>[X]</sup> **umbangabanga** <sup>[X]</sup> **umuthiwezi-thutha** <sup>[Z]</sup>

***Deinbollia oblongifolia***

**Type:**  
**Source:** Endemic  
**Flower:** Cream (March until May)  
**Fruit:** Pale Yellow (September until October)  
**Leaves:** Evergreen with green leaves.  
**Origin:**

**Biological Characteristics**

**Crown density:** Medium  
**Crown formation:** rounded heads  
**Growth rate:** Medium  
**Maximum height:** 6.00m  
**Horizontal spread:** 3.00m  
**Frost hardiness:** No  
**Drought resistant:** Moderate  
**Salt Tolerant:** Yes

**Management**

**Dormancy season:** Winter (May until August)  
**Water requirement:** Water when soil dry

**Soil Requirements**

**Drainage requirements:** Normal  
**Preferred growing medium:** Commercial Pinebark based  
**Preferred soil type:** Sandy well drained soil rich in humus

**Habits:** Shrub

**Habitats:** Coastal Forest, Dune Forest, Forest Edge, Sand Forest, Swamp Forest, Valley Bushveld

**Garden Placement:**

**Propagation methods:** Seed (Freshly cleaned)

**Sun Requirements:** Sun

- References:**
1. Boon, Richard "Pooley's Trees of Eastern South Africa, A complete Guide" *Flora & Fauna Publications Trust* (2010), Page 322
  2. Boon, Richard "Pooley's Trees of Eastern South Africa, A complete Guide" *Flora & Fauna Publications Trust* (2010), Page 324
  3. Braam van Wyk and Piet van Wyk "Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik Nature* (2013), Page 498
  4. David and Sally Johnson "Gardening with Indigenous Trees" *Struik* (2002), Page 41
  5. Palgrave, Keith Coates revised by Meg "Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik* (2002), Page 647
  6. Pooley, Elsa "The Complete Field Guide to Trees of Natal Zululand and Transkei" *Natal Flora Publication Trust* (1993), Page 288
  7. SANBI "Plantzafrica.com" *SANBI* (), Page D
  8. Schmidt, Ernst; Lotter, Mervyn; McClelland, Warren "Trees and Shrubs of Mpumalanga and Kruger National Park" *Jacana* (2002), Page 370



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Hugh Chittenden

**About the Plant**

Walk through any patch of coastal bush along the coastal belt of KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape to around East London and you'll find this medium sized shrub of about 5 metres tall. It is a common garden " pioneer/volunteer" plant that often arrives and looks in its early stages for all the world like a young forest mahogany ( *Trichilia dregeana*). The leaves are compound and the 5-8 pairs of leaflets have a paler green slightly matt appearance hence the confusion with the forest mahogany, which in fact has a darker green compound leaf that is fractionally more glossy. The dune soap-berry is usually multi-stemmed and if it isn't then you should nip out the terminal bud to force it to become multi-stemmed thus ensuring more terminal clusters of flowers which are small and creamy coloured and scented to boot. It is however the pale yellow 10mm diameter fruits that make me want this plant in my garden, especially in the winter months when all else is dry and dormant this plant has ripe fruit that provides a welcome meal for the birds and monkeys. This plant has another use that we often overlook; the leaves are the food for the larvae of two species of butterfly of which only the former occurs in the Durban area the forest queen ( *Charaxes wakefieldi*

used to be *Euxanthe wakefieldi*). The gold-banded forester (*Euphaedra neophron*) is arguably South Africa's most handsome butterfly and its caterpillars feed on the dune soap-berry and the jacket-plum (*Pappea capensis*) however the gold-banded forester only occurs as far south as about Mtunzini. The other butterfly that uses this plant as a larval food plant is the black-and-orange playboy (*Deudorix dariaves*) and the Orange-barred Playboy (*Deudorix diocles*) though the female lays her eggs on the fruits and the caterpillars then eat the fruits. The other butterflies that feed on this plant are the *Charaxes*. In this case however it is the adult flying forms that feed on the sweet fermenting fruits. During the early summer you can also find another dune special growing on *Deinbollia* this is a parasitic plant *Tapinanthus kraussianus* - Krauss's Mistletoe or the more descriptive common name of Lighted Matches. This parasite has flowers that are attractive to sunbirds and the fruits are relished by the fruit eating birds of the dune bush like Sombre and Yellow-bellied Greenbuls and the Dark-capped Bulbul, the Yellow-rumped and Red-fronted Tinkerbirds are both great distributors of this plant. When you have found a flowering plant of the Mistletoe, mark the plant and come back in two or three months to collect the fleshy fruits. Pop out the inner sticky bit that covers the seed proper, this sticky substance was rendered down in the past to make bird lime. Then stick the seed to a thin about 10mm branch or twig of a Dune Soap-berry and wait for the Mistletoe seed to germinate, about one in five seeds will attach themselves to the *Deinbollia* and there you are a new mistletoe in your own garden. All in all a very useful garden subject with value as a form plant in the landscape as it is fairly columnar in shape and has distinct terminal heads of leaves. Enjoys full sun but will survive in the shade but not flower as well. I often use this plant in herbaceous or shrub borders to add a little interest and I also plant it in groups so that you get the bulking effect otherwise it can get lost amongst the other species especially while it is still small. Clean dried seed Counted 1120 seeds per 500grams. Therefore 2240 seeds per kilogram.

**Acorn Diospyros** [E] **Acorn Jackal-berry** [E]  
**Akkerjakkalsbessie** [A] **Fynblaarjakkalsbessie** [A] **Small-leaved Jackal-berry** [E] **intshikivane** [X] **umasinda** [Z]  
**umhlayane-omhlope** [Z] **umsitshana** [X] **umtyshone** [X]

***Diospyros natalensis***

**Type:**  
**Source:** Endemic  
**Flower:** Cream (November until February)  
**Fruit:** OrangeRed (March until April)  
**Leaves:** Evergreen with green leaves.  
**Origin:**

**Biological Characteristics**

**Crown density:** Dense  
**Crown formation:** rounded  
**Growth rate:** Slow  
**Maximum height:** 15.00m  
**Horizontal spread:** 10.00m  
**Frost hardiness:** Light  
**Drought resistant:** Moderate  
**Salt Tolerant:** No

**Management**

**Dormancy season:** Winter (May until August)  
**Water requirement:** Water when soil dry

**Soil Requirements**

**Drainage requirements:** Normal  
**Preferred growing medium:** Commercial Pinebark based  
**Preferred soil type:** Sandy well drained soil rich in humus

**Habits:** Tree

**Habitats:** Coastal Forest, Dune Forest, Sand Forest, Valley Bushveld

**Garden Placement:**

**Propagation methods:** Seed (Hard)  
**Sun Requirements:** Semi-shade, Sun

- References:**
1. Boon, Richard "Pooley's Trees of Eastern South Africa, A complete Guide" *Flora & Fauna Publications Trust* (2010), Page 460
  2. Braam van Wyk and Piet van Wyk "Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik Nature* (2013), Page 212
  3. David and Sally Johnson "Gardening with Indigenous Trees" *Struik* (2002), Page 43
  4. Ernst van Jaarsveld "Wonderful Waterwise Gardening" *Tafelberg* (2000), Page 104
  5. Pooley, Elsa "The Complete Field Guide to Trees of Natal Zululand and Transkei" *Natal Flora Publication Trust* (1993), Page 404

**About the Plant**

I have known it in the coastal forests of KZN for most of my life. I have found it in the sand forests on KZN and Mpumalanga. Along the coastal areas it is a fairly common tree in dune forest where it forms groves that are distinctive in that very little else grows under the trees. The smoothly rounded canopy of this species stands out when flying low and slow over forests. While doing an aerial survey of vegetation north of Durban in the most thrilling and stable aerial viewing platform that I know of; a microlight, I noticed these trees that had beautiful russet coloured new leaves in October. I mapped the location and returned on foot to the patch of forest to find that the trees were the Acorn Diospyros. The leaves of this species have attracted me to this plant and my oldest Bonsai or rather container plant of about 30 years is a fine *Diospyros natalensis*. The leaves remain small and have an oval to rounded shape. The plant has a horizontal branching habit that translates down to the leaves all being borne alternately on twigs and stems in a single horizontal plane. The young shoots tend to have a weeping habit that makes this a fine garden subject. It is relatively slow growing and after tens years you will have a plant of about 4 metres tall. The good news is that male and female flowers are produced on separate trees so it is a good excuse to plant at least 5 or better still 12 trees in your garden. Use the same grouping strategy that the trees use in the wild. Cane farmers and gardeners along the KZN coast would be well advised to grow at least 5 these plants in each of their gardens so that the birds and monkeys can spread the seed back into the waterways and forest patches that remain between the cane fields and suburbia. The groups of small white flowers are produced in the leaf axils. Then if you are lucky enough to get a female tree the little acorn-like fruits begin to form that take at least a few months



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to mature. When a female tree is in full fruit it looks like the tree has been festooned with thousands of little Christmas lights. The fruits range from green when unripe through orange to bright red when ripe. Especially when the fruits are backlit by the shafts of sunlight that penetrate the dense forest canopy. The bark is smooth and grey with interestingly shaped branches. The roots of many of this and other *Diospyros* species that I have potted up are all black. A very distinctive feature of this genus. The smooth brown seeds once cleaned of the outer flesh germinate easily if sown fresh.

**Besemtrosvy** <sup>[A]</sup> **Broom Cluster Fig** <sup>[E]</sup> **Mogo**  
<sup>[09]</sup> **Muhuyu-ngala** <sup>[10]</sup> **aNkuwa** <sup>[TH]</sup> **mPhai** <sup>[TH]</sup>  
**umKhiwane** <sup>[X]</sup> **umKhiwane** <sup>[SW]</sup> **umKhiwane** <sup>[Z]</sup>  
**umKiwa** <sup>[09]</sup>

**MORACEAE** *Ficus sur*

**Type:** Tree.  
**Source:** Endemic.  
**Flower:** None.  
**Fruit:** Pink, Red. May until August.  
**Leaves:** Evergreen with Green leaves.

**Biological Characteristics**

**Crown density:** Medium.  
**Crown formation:** rounded upright.  
**Growth rate:** Fast.  
**Maximum height:** 20.00m.

**Management**

**Dormancy season:** Winter.  
**Water requirement:** Water when soil dry.

**Soil Requirements**

**Drainage requirements:** Normal.  
**Preferred growing medium:** Commercial Pinebark based.  
**Preferred soil type:** Wetland soils clayey but rich in organic matter.

**Habits:** Tree.

**Habitats:** Broad-leaved Woodland, Cliffs, Coastal Forest, Escarpment Forest, Mist Belt Forest, Swamp Forest, Wetland.

**Propagation methods:** Seed (Freshly cleaned), Vegetative (Truncheons).

**Sun Requirements:** Sun.

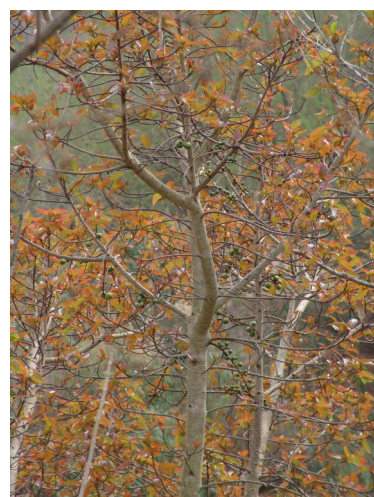
**References:** Palgrave, Keith Coates revised by Meg "Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik* (2002), Page 149  
 Pooley, Elsa "The Complete Field Guide to Trees of Natal Zululand and Transkei" *Natal Flora Publication Trust* (1993), Page 70  
 Schmidt, Ernst; Lotter, Mervyn; McClelland, Warren "Trees and Shrubs of Mpumalanga and Kruger National Park" *Jacana* (2002), Page 82 - 84

This is one of our more common fig trees that has a wide distribution from Knysna eastwards up the continent of Africa across into tropical West Africa. It will take some frost but does not go up beyond about 400m above sea level. This fig has colonised the Cape Peninsula and is common in Kirstenbosch where its figs feed a whole bunch of critters. The Cape Fig, (this is the common name that I learnt and unfortunately it has stuck and has a cleaner ring when compared with the new official name!), has the habit of growing on the edges of wetlands where the soils are poorly drained. It is able to withstand periodic floods and produces very attractive plank buttresses. It is found in our coastal forests but is never common in any of its preferred habitats. Trees cope with the boggy soils by having a shallow root system that literally floats over the waterlogged soils. Large specimens develop extensive plank buttresses at the base of the trunk, making it an ideal garden subject. Figs are produced on the stems in huge clusters hence the new common name. Individual figs ripen over a fairly long period of time thus ensuring that at least some seed will find its way back into the soil to germinate and continue the species.

This species even produces figs near and even slightly below ground level to ensure that some seed will be viable. Our forest antelope like the Bushbuck and Blue Duiker really enjoy the figs when they are ripe and have turned a rich pinky-red colour. These figs are even tasty and sweet to the human palate. With Vervet Monkeys, Genets, Fruit Bats and the birds that eat fruit will ensure that not a fig is left on the tree to rot. On a local tree in Burman Bush the ripe fruit are complete eaten in just hours of sunrise and the birds like Louries, Barbets and Bulbuls literally queue up for the fruits. The trunk is a wonderful smooth grey colour.

*Ficus sur* plays host to the Lesser Fig Tree Blue (*Myrina dermaptera dermaptera*) and the Fig Tree Blue (*Myrina silenus ficedula*) butterflies. It is difficult to tell the two butterflies apart when seeing them on the wing. These butterflies in my experience tend to favour the softer leaved species of figs. The larvae/caterpillars prefer to feed on the soft new leaves of the fig trees. They look like little green slugs. The larvae like to pupate under the peeling or flaking bark of trees.

The crown shape of this tree more or less rounded with the tree dropping its old leaves in late winter for a brief period of about ten days before the new russet coloured leaves appear. In the spring when these trees are back lit by early morning or late evening sunlight the new russet-coloured leaves glow and add a touch of drama to our drab forest background. Use this species in sheltered positions in your garden. Full sun or semi-shade will suit this species. Remember that you should give this species plenty of room for its roots to spread. Do not plant it close to underground services or foundations. *Ficus sur*; Broom Cluster Fig or Cape Fig; *Besemtrosvy* (Afrik); *umKhiwane* (Siswati, Xhosa and Zulu); *Mogo*, *umKiwa* (North Sotho); *mPhai* (Tsonga); *aNkuwa* (Thonga); *Muhuyu-ngala* (Venda)



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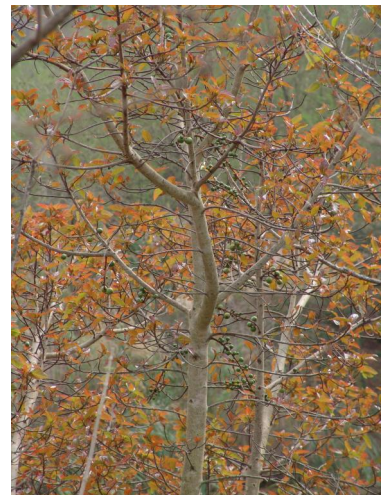


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**Common Spikethorn** <sup>[E]</sup> **Gewone Pendoring** <sup>[A]</sup>  
**ingqwangwane** <sup>[Z]</sup> **sihlangu lesimnyama** <sup>[SW]</sup> **umqaqoba** <sup>[X]</sup>

***Gymnosporia buxifolia***

- Type:**
- Source:** Indigenous
- Flower:** Cream (September until May)
- Fruit:** Tawny brown (June until April)
- Leaves:** Evergreen with green leaves.
- Origin:**

**Biological Characteristics**

- Crown density:** Medium
- Crown formation:** rounded straggly
- Growth rate:** Fast
- Maximum height:** 7.00m
- Horizontal spread:** 8.00m
- Frost hardiness:** Severe
- Drought resistant:** Moderate
- Salt Tolerant:** Yes

**Management**

- Dormancy season:** Winter (May until August)
- Water requirement:** Water when soil dry

**Soil Requirements**

- Drainage requirements:** Normal
- Preferred growing medium:** Bark:Riversand:Soil 1:1:1
- Preferred soil type:** Sandy well drained soil rich in humus

- Habits:** Barrier Plant, Hedge, Shrub, Tree, Windbreak
- Habitats:** Broad-leaved Woodland, Coastal Forest, Dune Forest, Escarpment Forest, Mist Belt Forest, Valley Bushveld

**Garden Placement:**

- Propagation methods:** Seed (Freshly cleaned)
- Sun Requirements:** Semi-shade, Sun

**References:**

1. Boon, Richard "Pooley's Trees of Eastern South Africa, A complete Guide" *Flora & Fauna Publications Trust* (2010), Page G
2. Braam van Wyk and Piet van Wyk "Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik Nature* (2013), Page 136
3. Germishuizen, Gerrit "Wildflowers of Northern South Africa" *Fernwood Press* (1997), Page 236
4. Palgrave, Keith Coates revised by Meg "Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik* (2002), Page 604
5. Pooley, Elsa "The Complete Field Guide to Trees of Natal Zululand and Transkei" *Natal Flora Publication Trust* (1993), Page 266
6. Schmidt, Ernst; Lotter, Mervyn; McClelland, Warren "Trees and Shrubs of Mpumalanga and Kruger National Park" *Jacana* (2002), Page 336

**About the Plant**

Trees in Africa have to be tough to survive the rigours of this continent. Many of the trees from the drier parts of the Durban area enjoy our hot and dry river valleys. A few, like the Umgeni, Umlazi, Umhlatuzana and umDlothi Rivers, have gorges that have been cut down over the millennia by the waters of these rivers. Despite the best efforts of us humans, it is in these valleys and gorges that many of our most exciting trees survive today. Unfortunately, gorges are just too steep to develop on economically! Gorges too, are where the climate is moderated and relatively stable especially when the extremes of climate change begin to really bite in the years to come. It is no coincidence that gorges around the globe hold much of the local biodiversity of the local fauna and flora. This is another of my favourite garden shrubs of about 4-8 metres. It can become a small tree if given space and light, but generally it is a background shrub for border or boundary plantings. The very long, woody spines that come off the stems will impale all comers, hence its value as a barrier plant and hedging species. It must be trimmed often to force it to become multi-stemmed and also to create the dense growth needed as a hedging plant. The small, sweetly scented, white or cream flowers appear in spring, and the woody to leathery-textured fruit capsules will ripen from about November on the coast, where it is warmer, to mid-winter inland, where it is cooler and where flowering and fruiting maturity can be delayed by up to about 8 weeks. As the fruits split open, the double-matchhead-sized seeds with their yellow covering (or aril), are revealed to the world. It's the relatively palatable aril that attracts birds, monkeys and even antelope to the plants. To plant this species remove the yellow aril from the seed and sow the seed as quickly as you can - you'll be rewarded with a seedling in about 3 weeks from sowing. These seedlings are quickish-growing and will make a reasonably sized shrub in about 3 years.



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## Duinekokoboom [A] Dune Koko-tree [E]

### *Maytenus procumbens*

**Type:**  
**Source:** Endemic  
**Flower:** Cream (September until October)  
**Fruit:** Orange (March until April)  
**Leaves:** Evergreen with green leaves.  
**Origin:**

#### Biological Characteristics

**Crown density:** Medium  
**Crown formation:** rounded straggly  
**Growth rate:** Medium  
**Maximum height:** 8.00m  
**Horizontal spread:** 8.00m  
**Frost hardiness:** Light  
**Drought resistant:** Moderate  
**Salt Tolerant:** Yes

#### Management

**Dormancy season:** Winter (May until August)  
**Water requirement:** Water when soil dry

#### Soil Requirements

**Drainage requirements:** Normal  
**Preferred growing medium:** Commercial Pinebark based  
**Preferred soil type:** Sandy well drained soil rich in humus

**Habits:** Barrier Plant, Hedge, Shrub, Tree, Windbreak

**Habitats:** Coastal Forest, Dune Forest

**Garden Placement:**

**Propagation methods:** Seed (Freshly cleaned)

**Sun Requirements:** Sun

- References:**
1. Boon, Richard "Pooley's Trees of Eastern South Africa, A complete Guide" *Flora & Fauna Publications Trust* (2010), Page 308
  2. Braam van Wyk and Piet van Wyk "Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik Nature* (2013), Page 158
  3. David & Sally Johnson, Geoff Nichols "Gardening with Indigenous Shrubs" *Struik* (2002), Page 74
  4. Ernst van Jaarsveld "Wonderful Waterwise Gardening" *Tafelberg* (2000), Page 47
  5. Palgrave, Keith Coates revised by Meg "Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik* (2002), Page 595
  6. Pooley, Elsa "The Complete Field Guide to Trees of Natal Zululand and Transkei" *Natal Flora Publication Trust* (1993), Page 268

## About the Plant

This shrub is found growing along the dune bush fringe of the eastern Cape, KZN and into Mozambique. The shrubs are rather nondescript with dark green thick leathery leaves. In the spring when the first flush of new leaves arrives they are a russet red colour.

The thick waxy looking leaves help to protect the plant from the harsh salt laden sea breezes. When the plant is growing behind the primary dune in the dune bush or forest or even in your garden it takes on a rounded shape making it an ideal small garden subject with the capability of forming a hedge if it is carefully trimmed.

Young plants will form a useful sized plant in about 4 years from seed. It is one of my favourite bird attracting species. The fruits are a three lobed "capsule" that split to reveal a bunch of orange seeds. The fleshy orange part is known as an aril. This is a cunning way for the plant to disperse its seed. The aril clings to each seed that is roughly round. The bird or mammal then swallows the aril and seed. The aril is digested and the smooth seed coat is resistant to stomach acids and passes through the gut of the animal and is deposited in another part of the dune bush hopefully in a clearing that will allow for the seedling to germinate and grow to maturity.

Birds using this tree for food are Greenbuls, Bulbuls, Barbets, Tinkerbirds, Thrushes, White-eyes and Mousebirds.

In some of the dune forests near Lake St. Lucia this plant becomes a fairly large shrub or small tree of about 6-8 metres tall with a very pretty trunk that is relatively smooth but textured with lichens that make interesting coloured patterns on the greyish brown trunk.



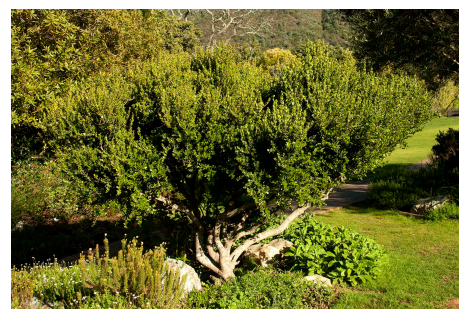
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# Bosolienhout <sup>[A]</sup> Forest Olive <sup>[E]</sup> isahlulambhazo <sup>[Z]</sup> umHlwazimamba <sup>[Z]</sup> umgqukungu <sup>[X]</sup> umnqumo <sup>[Z]</sup> usintlwa <sup>[X]</sup>

**OLEACEAE** *Olea woodiana*

**Type:** Tree.  
**Source:** Endemic.  
**Flower:** Cream. November until February.  
**Fruit:** Purple. January until May.  
**Leaves:** Evergreen with Green leaves.

## Biological Characteristics

**Crown density:** Medium.  
**Crown formation:** rounded.  
**Growth rate:** Medium.  
**Maximum height:** 20.00m.

## Management

**Dormancy season:** Winter.  
**Water requirement:** Water when soil dry.

## Soil Requirements

**Drainage requirements:** Normal.  
**Preferred growing medium:** Commercial Pinebark based.  
**Preferred soil type:** Sandy well drained soil rich in humus.

**Habits:** Tree.

**Habitats:** Coastal Forest, Dune Forest, Escarpment Forest.

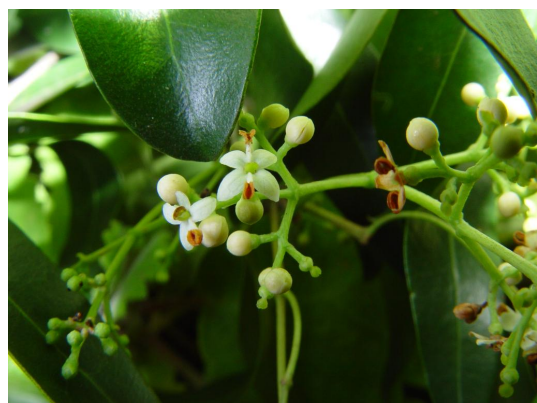
**Propagation methods:** Seed (Freshly cleaned).

**Sun Requirements:** Sun.

**References:** Boon, Richard "Pooley's Trees of Eastern South Africa, A complete Guide" *Flora & Fauna Publications Trust* (2010), Page 478  
Palgrave, Keith Coates revised by Meg "Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik* (2002), Page 920  
Pooley, Elsa "The Complete Field Guide to Trees of Natal Zululand and Transkei" *Natal Flora Publication Trust* (1993), Page 414

## About the Plant

A coastal lowland and escarpment forest species that tends to grow in groves in these forests. Flowering also tends to be every 3-5 years depending on the weather conditions. Then the whole grove flowers at once. This type of flowering is known as "masting" - derived from northern hemisphere temperate forests where beech, oak and chestnut fruits were fed to pigs by allowing the pigs to grub for the fruits/seeds. In our region the forest antelope and Bushpig also visit the fruiting trees as do monkeys and hundreds of Red-eyed Doves in the Durban region. An attractive garden species. Upright habit and fruits are miniature olives that ripen to a burgundy colour.



**Natakarree** [A] **Northern Dune Currant** [E] **inhlokoshiyane** [Z]  
**umgwele** [X]

*Searsia natalensis*

**Type:**  
**Source:** Endemic  
**Flower:** Cream (September until October)  
**Fruit:** Red Brown (March until April)  
**Leaves:** Evergreen with green leaves.  
**Origin:**

**Biological Characteristics**

**Crown density:** Scrambler  
**Crown formation:** hedge  
**Growth rate:** Medium  
**Maximum height:** 5.00m  
**Horizontal spread:** 7.00m  
**Frost hardiness:** No  
**Drought resistant:** Moderate  
**Salt Tolerant:** Yes

**Management**

**Dormancy season:** Winter (May until August)  
**Water requirement:** Water when soil dry

**Soil Requirements**

**Drainage requirements:** Free Draining  
**Preferred growing medium:** Sandy loam  
**Preferred soil type:** sandy

**Habits:** Hedge, Scrambler, Windbreak  
**Habitats:** Coastal Forest, Dune Forest, Foredune

**Garden Placement:**

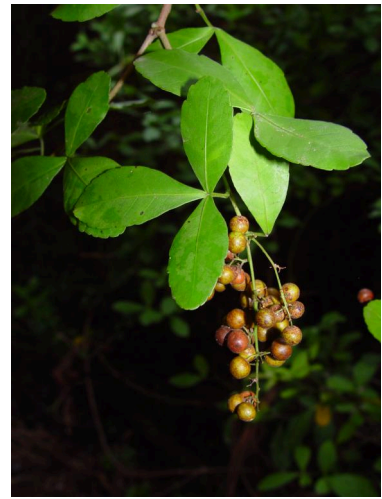
**Propagation methods:** Seed (Freshly cleaned)

**Sun Requirements:** Sun

**References:** 1. Boon, Richard "Pooley's Trees of Eastern South Africa, A complete Guide" *Flora & Fauna Publications Trust* (2010), Page 280  
2. Gibson, Janet M "Wild Flowers of Natal (Inland Region)" *Natal Publishing Trust Fund* (1978), Page 69  
3. Palgrave, Keith Coates revised by Meg "Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik* (2002), Page 577  
4. Pooley, Elsa "The Complete Field Guide to Trees of Natal Zululand and Transkei" *Natal Flora Publication Trust* (1993), Page 256

**About the Plant**

A more robust dune edge and dune forest edge pioneer shrub with a scandent habit. The brown fruits make good tasting snacks for local wildlife including humans. Best suited to back of dune and shrub borders in a garden. Slowish growth but worth the wait. Best in full sun and will take the salt spray.



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Hophout [A] Pigeonwood [E] ifamu [Z] iphubane [Z]  
 isikwelamfene [Z] modutu [NS] mpokoboko [NS] mpuka  
 [TH] mukurukuru [V] nsakasaka [SW] ubalakancane [SW]  
 ubathini [Z] umbhangabhanga [Z] umbokhangabokhanganga  
 [Z] umdindwa [Z] umsekeseke [Z] umvangazi [X] umvangazi [Z]  
 uphakane [X]

***Trema orientalis***

**Type:** Tree  
**Source:** Endemic  
**Flower:** Cream (November until February)  
**Fruit:** BlackPurple (January until December)  
**Leaves:** Evergreen with green leaves.  
**Origin:**

**Biological Characteristics**

**Crown density:** Light  
**Crown formation:** rounded horizontal branching  
**Growth rate:** Fast  
**Maximum height:** 15.00m  
**Horizontal spread:** 12.00m  
**Frost hardiness:** Light  
**Drought resistant:** No  
**Salt Tolerant:** No

**Management**

**Dormancy season:** Winter (May until August)  
**Water requirement:** Water when soil dry

**Soil Requirements**

**Drainage requirements:** Normal  
**Preferred growing medium:** Commercial Pinebark based  
**Preferred soil type:** unfussy

**Habits:** Tree  
**Habitats:** Coastal Forest, Coastal Grassland , Dune Forest,  
 Escarpment Forest, Forest Edge, Mist Belt Forest,  
 Riverine Vegetation, Valley Bushveld, Wetland

**Garden Placement:**  
**Propagation methods:** Seed (Freshly cleaned)  
**Sun Requirements:** Sun

**References:** 1. Palgrave, Keith Coates revised by Meg "Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik* (2002), Page 128  
 2. Pooley, Elsa "The Complete Field Guide to Trees of Natal Zululand and Transkei" *Natal Flora Publication Trust* (1993), Page 66  
 3. Schmidt, Ernst; Lotter, Mervyn; McClelland, Warren "Trees and Shrubs of Mpumalanga and Kruger National Park" *Jacana* (2002), Page 72

**About the Plant**

Along our frost free east coast of Southern Africa this is probably the best pioneer tree for any position other than in the teeth of the wind along the dune strip. This tree is in my opinion the fastest thing on roots. A young plant that has germinated in spring will be up to about 1 metre tall by the end of summer. I have seen specimens of this tree in fruit in their second year from seed. This is quick in anybody's language.

This is a tree that has large leaves when it is young and as the tree gets older and bigger the leaves become relatively smaller. Often people will misidentify the plant when it is young. The fruits are about the size of a matchhead. I don't know if this is my imagination or not but it seems that matches have got thinner and the heads have gotten smaller! Old age, who knows?

The fruits are a purple black colour when ripe and here is where this tree comes into its own as a garden tree for attracting wildlife. I have two in my garden one now dead and still doing a good job as a provider of habitat for nesting barbets and various insect grubs that are feeding on the decaying wood. Remember that these trees are relatively short lived in that they live only for about twenty years and then die.

The Pigeonwood by its name attracts many fruit eating birds and mammals plus a whole bunch of other birds that are not fruit eaters. The reason being is that the Pigeonwood is short lived and it grows in spurts when we have a drought or harsh winter winds the taller branches tend to get burnt off and the resultant die back of the branch now leaves a wonderful viewing post for the local birds. I have an African Goshawk that comes regularly to survey its domain and to feed on the Laughing Doves or Mynas that live around the neighbourhood. Pigeonwood trunks tend to become hollow when older and this attracts cavity dwellers like the large Blue-headed Lizard and even the odd bird like a Black-bellied Starling that will nest in a hollow stem.



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A surprising feeder on the fruits is my firm favourite the Spotted Genet, then birds like Green Twinspot, Bully, Streaky-headed and Yellow-eye Canaries all feed from this tree in my garden. One that is really surprising is the Crested Guinea-fowl, I recently watched a flock of these birds clambering about the horizontal branches of a Pigeonwood in Zimbali feeding on the fruits of this tree.

Belonging to the Elm family this tree is in our region visited by the Thick-billed Weaver flocks that live virtually exclusively on the fruits of the trees belonging to this family like the Thorny Elm, White Stinkwood and Natal White Stinkwood.

Growing this tree is relatively simple but a word of caution is that I find that the seedlings are very delicate when young and need to be treated with care. A surprising trait for a tree that is so quick growing, tough and a pioneer. Therefore clean the flesh off the seed and sow immediately in a tray of well drained seedling mix of one part coarse river sand to one part well matured compost. Once the seed has germinated after about one week to ten days then prick the seedlings out into individual containers. Feed and water regularly for best results. I find it easier to prick out seedlings directly from under the tree into little containers.

## Bleekbassoetdoring<sup>[A]</sup> Pale-bark Sweet Thorn<sup>[E]</sup>

### *Vachellia natalitia*

**Type:**  
**Source:** Endemic  
**Flower:** Yellow (November until January)  
**Fruit:** Brown (April until July)  
**Leaves:** Deciduous with green leaves.  
**Origin:**

#### Biological Characteristics

**Crown density:** Medium  
**Crown formation:** rounded  
**Growth rate:** Fast  
**Maximum height:** 10.00m  
**Horizontal spread:** 8.00m  
**Frost hardiness:** Moderate  
**Drought resistant:** Yes  
**Salt Tolerant:** No

#### Management

**Dormancy season:** Winter (May until August)  
**Water requirement:** Water when soil dry

#### Soil Requirements

**Drainage requirements:** Normal  
**Preferred growing medium:** Commercial Pinebark based  
**Preferred soil type:** Sandy well drained soil rich in humus

**Habits:** Tree

**Habitats:** Broad-leaved Woodland, Coastal Grassland ,  
Disturbed Areas, Valley Bushveld

#### Garden Placement:

**Propagation methods:** Seed (Hard)

**Sun Requirements:** Sun

**References:**

1. Boon, Richard "Pooley's Trees of Eastern South Africa, A complete Guide" *Flora & Fauna Publications Trust* (2010), Page 182
2. Braam van Wyk and Piet van Wyk "Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik Nature* (2013), Page 588
3. Palgrave, Keith Coates revised by Meg "Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik* (2002), Page 291
4. Pooley, Elsa "Mountain Flowers, A Field Guide to the Flora of the Drakensberg and Lesotho" *Natal Flora Publications Trust* (2003), Page 131
5. Schmidt, Ernst; Lotter, Mervyn; McClelland, Warren "Trees and Shrubs of Mpumalanga and Kruger National Park" *Jacana* (2002), Page 156

## About the Plant

This is really great all round tree that to me is one of the most versatile of our tree species in that it is able to grow in every province in the country. There is not a garden in the country that cannot grow this species. Farmers tend to want to remove this tree if they live and graze animals in the bushveld and semi bushveld areas of the country. It is a real pioneer and is able to colonise overgrazed veld very quickly. Fire will kill young saplings but it is a tree of this continent and has adapted to surviving fire most effectively. You have all heard or read of the story that these trees react to browsing animals by increasing the concentration of unpalatable and even toxic chemicals in the leaves to prevent browsing animals like giraffe and kudu from over exploiting the leaves of a clump of these trees. All these strategies help to ensure the survival of the tree under the harsh conditions that they grow under. Now in a garden situation use these survivability characteristics to the full by planting groves around your boundary fence to help ward off marauders both human and browsing. The thorns on this species are very effective barriers to animals including us humans. The roots of these legumes produce nitrogen manufactured by the bacteria in the nodules helping to increase soil fertility and thus stronger plants of other species growing near the Sweet Thorn. The tree is very fast growing under full sun conditions. I have seen it right down on the coast. On the Zululand and Eastern Cape coast it is a pioneer of note in the clearings in the forests. It has even been given a new specific name in northern KZN *Acacia kosiensis*. The first woody species to reappear is often this tree. The bright yellow pompom flowers are rich in nectar making it a great tree for bees. Birds and mammals eat the flowers. When the sickle shaped pods appear animals eat them. Birds like Southern Black Tits can be seen prising the pods apart to get at the insect grubs that are eating the seeds within the pods. The insects attracted to the trees bring in warblers by the dozen to feed, especially during late summer and autumn when the migratory warblers are loading up food reserves just before the long trip back up the African continent to their breeding grounds in Europe. This tree's wood makes a fine firewood and produces



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a wonderful set of coals for cooking. The gum from damaged bark is eaten by Vervet and Samango Monkeys during the day and at night the Bushbabies take over. Along the Zululand coast the Thick-tailed Galago or Bushbaby will virtually camp at a tree that is exuding bark. A mixed grove of different Acacias in a garden makes for a garden full of birds and insects. Acacia Veld is one of the most productive habitats that you can have from a wildlife point of view. Bring this habitat into a garden and you will never be short of interest. The braai fire will always be burning!

**Brakdoring** <sup>[A]</sup> **Narrow-pod Robust Thorn** <sup>[E]</sup> **River Thorn** <sup>[E]</sup>  
**Splendid Thorn** <sup>[E]</sup> **umungamanzi** <sup>[Z]</sup>

***Vachellia robusta***

- Type:**
- Source:** Endemic
- Flower:** White (September until October)
- Fruit:** Brown (March until April)
- Leaves:** Deciduous with green leaves.
- Origin:**

**Biological Characteristics**

- Crown density:** Medium
- Crown formation:** rounded
- Growth rate:** Fast
- Maximum height:** 25.00m
- Horizontal spread:** 15.00m
- Frost hardiness:** Light
- Drought resistant:** Moderate
- Salt Tolerant:** No

**Management**

- Dormancy season:** Winter (May until August)
- Water requirement:** Water when soil dry

**Soil Requirements**

- Drainage requirements:** Normal
- Preferred growing medium:** Commercial Pinebark based
- Preferred soil type:** Sandy well drained soil rich in humus

**Habits:** Tree

- Habitats:** Broad-leaved Woodland, Coastal Forest, Coastal Grassland , Escarpment Forest, Rock Outcrops, Valley Bushveld

**Garden Placement:**

- Propagation methods:** Seed (Hard)

**Sun Requirements:** Sun

- References:**
  1. Boon, Richard "Pooley's Trees of Eastern South Africa, A complete Guide" *Flora & Fauna Publications Trust* (2010), Page 184
  2. Braam van Wyk and Piet van Wyk "Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik Nature* (2013), Page 592
  3. Joffe, Pitta "Creative Gardening with Indigenous plants, A South African Guide" *Briza* (2012), Page 54
  4. Palgrave, Keith Coates revised by Meg "Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik* (2002), Page 296
  5. Pooley, Elsa "The Complete Field Guide to Trees of Natal Zululand and Transkei" *Natal Flora Publication Trust* (1993), Page 136
  6. Schmidt, Ernst; Lotter, Mervyn; McClelland, Warren "Trees and Shrubs of Mpumalanga and Kruger National Park" *Jacana* (2002), Page 160



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**About the Plant**

This is the first Thorn Tree in our part of the world to transform itself from a drab leafless tree into one of the most glorious shows of fresh green to cover a tree in the early Spring. Once the leaves have appeared then the mass of creamy white scented pom-pom flowers come out and then the insects and birds arrive in their dozens to feed at this tree. The scent of the flowers in the evening is really reminiscent of the bush to a "townie" like myself. The splendid thorn really lives up to its name here on the coast it becomes a huge tree and the two largest specimens that I know of are at Burman Bush Nature Reserve on the Durban Berea Ridge. In the Lowveld it inhabits riverine bush and can be seen above the canopy showing off its flowers. The branches are large and even the twigs are quite robust with the leaves coming out in clusters from little "cushions" or fascicles on the branches. Thorns are also produced at these nodes and in young plants and shoots the thorns are longer to protect the delicate new growths from urban browsers like pedestrian vandals and weed-eating nylon! In the real world it's the browsers like Kudu and Giraffe that it needs to protect itself from. *Vachellia robusta* grows quickly and in three years you have a tree that you can park a motor vehicle under. New growths have a weeping habit and as the woody tissue is laid down the branch stiffens up and begins to grow upright. Pods are produced in the late summer, they are like the plant large and woody, providing monkeys in our urban areas with much needed food rich in protein. The seeds are also parasitised by little beetles which no doubt add to the protein content of the food for the monkeys and birds. Near us the Southern Black Tit will work its way through the pods by levering the two halves apart with its beak and extracting the beetle grubs from the



seeds. There is a large specimen in a Nature Reserve near my home that has had a Large Spotted Genet making its midden high up in a fork of this tree for the last 20 years that I have watched the tree. The view from this midden over the surrounding bush is magnificent, a real loo with a view! There is now a Natal Fig beginning to grow in this fertilizer/compost patch. Its roots will no doubt find their way down the trunk to the soil below. This is not a tree for duplex gardens so don't go and plant one in a confined space. It is also the species that should be planted around Durban more often instead of the fever tree. It is better suited to our conditions and doesn't split apart when the winter SW busters blow up from the Cape.

**Cat's Whiskers** <sup>[E]</sup> **Gladdetontelhout** <sup>[A]</sup> **Smooth  
Tinderwood** <sup>[E]</sup> **Tinderwood** <sup>[E]</sup> **fundeni** <sup>[Z]</sup> **inunkisiqaqa** <sup>[X]</sup>  
**umnukalembaba** <sup>[Z]</sup> **umqoqongo** <sup>[Z]</sup> **unqangakzane dwesa**  
<sup>[X]</sup> **uphehlechwathi** <sup>[Z]</sup> **uphelacwathe** <sup>[Z]</sup> **uqangazana** <sup>[X]</sup>

***Volkameria glabra***

**Type:** Tree  
**Source:** Endemic  
**Flower:** White (December until June)  
**Fruit:** Cream (November until May)  
**Leaves:** Evergreen with green leaves.

**Biological Characteristics**

**Crown density:** Medium  
**Crown formation:** rounded  
**Growth rate:** Fast  
**Maximum height:** 10.00m  
**Horizontal spread:** 8.00m  
**Frost hardiness:** Moderate  
**Drought resistant:** Moderate  
**Salt Tolerant:** Yes

**Management**

**Dormancy season:** Winter (May until August)  
**Water requirement:** Water when soil dry

**Soil Requirements**

**Drainage requirements:** Normal  
**Preferred growing medium:** Commercial Pinebark based  
**Preferred soil type:** unfussy

**Habits:** Shrub, Tree  
**Habitats:** Broad-leaved Woodland, Coastal Forest, Disturbed Areas, Dune Forest, Escarpment Forest, Forest Edge, Rock Outcrops, Valley Bushveld, Wetland

**Garden Placement:**

**Propagation methods:** Seed (Freshly cleaned)  
**Sun Requirements:** Sun

**References:** 1. Boon, Richard "Pooley's Trees of Eastern South Africa, A complete Guide" *Flora & Fauna Publications Trust* (2010), Page 514  
2. Palgrave, Keith Coates revised by Meg "Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik* (2002), Page 989  
3. Pooley, Elsa "The Complete Field Guide to Trees of Natal Zululand and Transkei" *Natal Flora Publication Trust* (1993), Page 444  
4. Schmidt, Ernst; Lotter, Mervyn; McClelland, Warren "Trees and Shrubs of Mpumalanga and Kruger National Park" *Jacana* (2002), Page 574



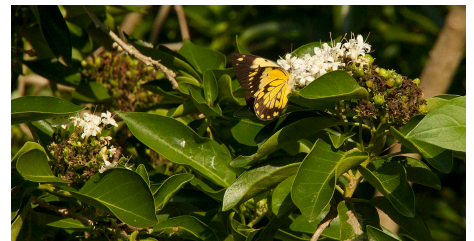
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**About the Plant**

*Volkameria glabra* was *Clerodendrum glabrum*, This is one of the most common pioneer trees along our coast. It is able to live in virtually any habitat that a seed finds itself. The only area that it does not enjoy is deep shade. It is the one tree that is described in the books as "relatively small" and it remains small, not often do you find it larger than 8 metres tall. It is able to withstand salt laden winds even though it will grow with the wind direction and lean all its branches and leaves away from the prevailing winds, giving it a very windblown look. The tree takes on a very sculptural shape with age because the branches twist and bend in interesting ways. These trees are also more often than not multi-stemmed which makes them ideal subjects for a small sunny garden. The leaves are produced in whorls of three per node and when crushed give off a pungent smell. The flowers are small sweetly scented and vary in colour from white to pink. The scent from the flowers on a still evening will spread over a fairly large area, making this species an ideal plant for a garden. Clerodendrum belongs to the Verbenaceae family, the flowers of these trees are rich in nectar and attract many insects, especially butterflies. Hugh Chittenden has observed Red-eyed Doves feeding on the unripe and ripe fruits of this plant. I have seen Tambourine Doves picking up fallen ripe fruits from under the tree. The trees are in flower during December and January. The fruits are ripe in about March – May that then bring in birds and monkeys to feast on the yellow fruits. This species will replace the following invasive alien plants *Acacia longifolia*, *Acacia podalyriifolia*, *Cestrum laevigatum*, *Cestrum erectum*, *Duranta erecta*, *Nerium oleander*, *Thevetia peruviana* and *Tecoma stans*.

# African Dog-rose <sup>[E]</sup> Afrikaanse hondsroos <sup>[A]</sup> isishwashwa <sup>[Z]</sup> umBalekani <sup>[Z]</sup> umdubu <sup>[X]</sup>

**FLACOURTIACEAE** *Xylothea kraussiana*

**Type:** Tree.  
**Source:** Endemic.  
**Flower:** White. September until October.  
**Fruit:** Yellow. November until February.  
**Leaves:** Deciduous with Green leaves.

## Biological Characteristics

**Crown density:** Medium.  
**Crown formation:** rounded upright.  
**Growth rate:** Medium.  
**Maximum height:** 8.00m.

## Management

**Dormancy season:** Winter.  
**Water requirement:** Weekly.

## Soil Requirements

**Drainage requirements:** Normal.  
**Preferred growing medium:** Commercial Pinebark based.  
**Preferred soil type:** Sandy well drained soil rich in humus.

**Habits:** Shrub, Tree.

**Habitats:** Broad-leaved Woodland, Coastal Forest, Dune Forest, Escarpment Forest, Sand Forest, Valley Bushveld.

**Propagation methods:** Seed (Freshly cleaned).

**Sun Requirements:** Sun.

**References:** Boon, Richard "Pooley's Trees of Eastern South Africa, A complete Guide" *Flora & Fauna Publications Trust* (2010), Page 380  
Palgrave, Keith Coates revised by Meg "Trees of Southern Africa" *Struik* (2002), Page 750  
Pooley, Elsa "The Complete Field Guide to Trees of Natal Zululand and Transkei" *Natal Flora Publication Trust* (1993), Page 328  
Schmidt, Ernst; Lotter, Mervyn; McClelland, Warren "Trees and Shrubs of Mpumalanga and Kruger National Park" *Jacana* (2002), Page 440

## About the Plant

This small tree deserves to be in every garden in the eastern coastal areas of South Africa. It is one of our best spring flowering trees on the coast. If its grown in full sun it'll delight in the early Spring with a whole mass of white flat single rose-like flowers that are about 50mm in diameter. The flowers are sweetly scented in the evenings and if the air in your garden is still the scent will waft in through open doors or windows. The cluster of yellow stamens in the centre of the flower are reminiscent of a small "fried egg". The plant has a gardenia look about it and is partially deciduous especially if it is grown in full sun and not watered during the winter resting months. Then in the spring the fresh new leaves appear and the flowers follow very soon after the first flush of leaves. Now comes the bonus, the seed capsules are egg-shaped if you use your imagination a bit, more pointed at either end!! They turn a orange yellow colour when ripe and resemble little lanterns in the tree. As the mature capsule splits into five segments it reveals the brownish seeds covered in a sweet orange flesh that are quite palatable even to humans and extremely tasty to birds and monkeys who don't miss a capsule in any patch of coastal forest. African dog-roses grow reasonably fast and I've had my one in my garden for six years and it flowered in the fourth year from seed. Wild gardeners are also attracted to the butterflies that use this tree as a larval host plant. The blood-red acraea (*Acraea petraea*) uses *Xylothea kraussiana* as its larval food plant. During the summer months your tree may be partially defoliated by the catapillars but once again don't try and spray them with an insecticide leave them be and you'll be treated to pupating catapillars everywhere and the pretty red butterflies that emerge will please even the most hardened of city hearts.

