

Cape Peninsula Plant Guide

Easy-to-grow indigenous plants for Scarborough and the Cape Peninsula.

Water-wise | Biodiversity-friendly | Suitable for local gardens

Each plant is listed once only. Where a species fits more than one habitat, it has been placed in the most appropriate local category.

Trees

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Notes
<i>Pterocelastrus tricuspidatus</i>		Large shrub / small tree	Strandveld / dune thicket
<i>Psoralea pinnata</i>	Fountain Bush	Tall shrub/tree	Fast-growing pioneer for damp soils
<i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>africana</i>	Wild Olive	Tree	Excellent bird habitat
<i>Rapanea melanophloeos</i>	Cape Beech	Tree	Moist sheltered positions
<i>Halleria lucida</i>	Tree Fuchsia	Small tree	Pollinator magnet
<i>Pittosporum viridiflorum</i>	Cheesewood	Small tree	Good understory tree

Strandveld

Dune Thicket - large shrubs

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Notes
<i>Euclea racemosa</i>	Dune guarri	Large shrub / small tree	Strandveld / dune thicket
<i>Maurocena frangula</i>		Large shrub	
<i>Maytenus lucida</i>		Large shrub	
<i>Olea exasperata</i>	Sand olive	Small tree	Strandveld / dune thicket
<i>Searsia glauca</i>		Shrub	
<i>Searsia lucida</i>		Shrub	
<i>Sideroxylon inerme</i>	White milkwood	Tree	Excellent coastal shade tree

Low growing strandveld

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Notes
<i>Arctotis stoechadifolius</i>	Arctotis	Groundcover	
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Sour fig	Groundcover	
<i>Cliffortia obcordata</i>		Low-growing shrub	
<i>Dipogon lignosus</i>	Sweet pea creeper	Creeper	
<i>Felicia fruticosa</i>		Shrub	lovely patches of mauve in spring all along the coast
<i>Gazania rigens</i>	Gazania	Groundcover	
<i>Geranium incanum</i>		Groundcover	white form local
<i>Helichrysum dasyanthum</i>		Shrub	yellow flowers Coastal Rd
<i>Helichrysum patulum</i>		Shrub	white flowers
<i>Hermannia pinnata</i>		Groundcover	apricot flowers
<i>Metalasia muricata</i>	Blombos	Shrub	
<i>Osteospermum</i> (<i>Chrysanthemoides</i>) <i>incanum</i>		Low-growing strandveld	grey leaf
<i>Osteospermum</i> (<i>Chrysanthemoides</i>) <i>monilifera</i>	Bietou	Low-growing strandveld	
<i>Pelargonium betulinum</i>		Low-growing strandveld	
<i>Pelargonium capitatum</i>	Rose pelargonium	Groundcover	
<i>Phylica ericoides</i>	Hard-leaf phylica	Shrub	More of a strandveld species but grows anywhere; good garden shrub
<i>Psoralea decumbens</i>		Groundcover	
<i>Psoralea repens</i>		Groundcover	dunes and strandveld
<i>Psoralea bracteolata</i>		Shrub	1m shrub; blue flowers early summer
<i>Searsia</i> (<i>Rhus</i>) <i>crenata</i>	Dune currant	Shrub	
<i>Tetragonia fruticosa</i>	Sea spinach	Groundcover	Edible
<i>Thamnochortus spicigerus</i>	Tall strandveld restio grass	Restio / grass	
<i>Trachyandra ciliata</i>		Perennial	edible buds and leaves
<i>Zygophyllum flexuosum</i>		Low-growing strandveld	

Acid Mountain Fynbos

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Notes
Agathosma capensis		Shrub	
Agathosma ciliaris		Shrub	
Agathosma imbricata		Shrub	
Capeochloa cincta	Tall plumed grass	Grass	
Coleonema album		Shrub	
Curio (Senecio) crassulifolius		Succulent	local / better Scarborough species
Disparago ericoides		Fynbos shrub	
Erica cerinthoides	Fire heath	Shrub	local form
Erica coccinea		Shrub	Yellow or red
Erica ericoides		Shrub	
Erica mammosa	Ninepin heath	Shrub	
Erica plukenetii	Hairy heath	Shrub	
Helichrysum pandurifolium		Fynbos shrub	
Leucadendron coniferum		Shrub	
Leucadendron laureolum		Shrub	
Leucadendron salignum	Sunshine conebush	Shrub	local form best not to use selected forms
Leucadendron xanthoconus		Shrub	
Leucospermum conocarpodendron subsp. viridiflorum	Tree pincushion	Shrub	
Leucospermum hypophyllacarpodendron		Shrub	
Lobelia pinifolia		Small herbaceous shrub	free flowering
Metalasia densa	Dense Blombos	Shrub	
Mimetes cucullatus		Shrub	
Mimetes fimbriifolius		Shrub	
Myrsine africana	African Boxwood	Shrub	Dense screening shrub
Osmitopsis asteriscoides		Shrub	strong bush covered in white daisies
Pelargonium cucullatum		Fynbos shrub	
Podalyria sericea		Shrub	Silver leaves; pink flowers
Protea lepidocarpodendron		Shrub	cream bearded protea
Protea repens	Sugarbush	Shrub	
Protea scolymocephala		Shrub	
Restio quadratus	Square restio	Restio	
Serruria glomerata		Shrub	
Struthiola ciliata		Shrub	night scented moth pollinated
Struthiola dodecandra		Shrub	night scented moth pollinated
Thamnochortus lucens		Restio	
Thamnochortus obtusus		Restio	
Tribolium uniolae	Fynbos grass	Grass	

Dune Vegetation (Western Cape - West Coast)

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Notes
Arctotheca populifolia	Dune arctotheca	Dune vegetation	
Carpobrotus acinaciformis	Sour fig (large)	Dune vegetation	
Chenolea diffusa		Dune vegetation	
Didelta carnosa	Coastal didelta	Dune vegetation	
Dimorphotheca fruticosa		Dune vegetation	
Ficinia nodosa / Scirpus nodosus	Knobby Club Rush	Sedge	Dune vegetation; excellent for coastal wet soils
Myrica cordifolia		Dune vegetation	
Othonna coronopifolia	Yellow trailing daisy	Dune vegetation	
Plantago carnosa		Dune vegetation	
Senecio elegans	Purple senecio	Dune vegetation	
Tetragonia decumbens		Dune vegetation	
Thinopyrum distichum	Dune grass	Grass	

Wetland & Moisture-Loving Indigenous Species

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Notes
<i>Elegia tectorum</i>	Cape Thatching Reed	Reed/restio	Excellent structural wetland plant
<i>Juncus kraussii</i>	Sea Rush	Rush	Coastal wetland stabiliser
<i>Typha capensis</i>	Bulrush	Aquatic reed	Good for large wet areas
<i>Cyperus textilis</i>	Mat Rush	Sedge	Beautiful woven-texture sedge
<i>Isolepis prolifera</i>	Creeping Fiber Optic Grass	Sedge	Great edging plant
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Arum Lily	Wetland perennial	Shade tolerant too
<i>Berzelia lanuginosa</i>	Button Bush	Wetland shrub	Characteristic Cape seep species

Shady & Sheltered Indigenous Species

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Notes
<i>Asparagus densiflorus</i>	Foxtail Fern	Groundcover	Not local but indigenous, non-invasive
<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>	Wild Spider Plant	Groundcover	Not local but indigenous, non-invasive
<i>Crassula multicava</i>	Fairy Crassula	Succulent groundcover	Not local but indigenous, non-invasive
<i>Chasmanthe aethiopica</i>		Bulb	
<i>Chasmanthe floribunda</i>		Bulb	bit too vigorous bulbs should be removed in areas where they are not wanted
<i>Chironia baccifera</i>		Shrub	
<i>Clivia miniata</i>		Shade perennial	Not local but indigenous and non-invasive - Kei mouth to Barberton
<i>Haemanthus albiflos</i>		Bulb	Eastern Cape; KZN; Western Cape
<i>Jasminum multipartitum</i>		Climber / shrub	Not local but indigenous and non-invasive - Eastern Cape and Northward summer rainfall
<i>Justicia tubulosa</i> ssp. <i>tubulosa</i>		Herbaceous shrub to 50cm	Western Cape; Eastern Cape; KZN
<i>Justicia tubulosa</i> ssp. <i>late-ovata</i>		Groundcover	25cm; Eastern Cape Western Cape
<i>Knowltonia versicatoria</i> ssp. <i>versicatoria</i>		Shade plant	
<i>Melasphaerula graminea</i>		Bulb	widespread from the Western Cape eastwards
<i>Plectranthus</i>		Shade plant	Not local but indigenous and non-invasive - most species are acceptable except <i>P. barbatus</i> , an Australian native
<i>Psychotria capensis</i>		Large flowering bush or small tree	Not local but indigenous and non-invasive - KZN
<i>Stachys aethiopica</i>		Groundcover	trailing white flowers
<i>Turraea obtusifolia</i>		Shade plant	Not local but indigenous and non-invasive - Eastern Cape and Northward summer rainfall
<i>Veltheimia bracteata</i>		Bulb	Not local but indigenous and non-invasive - Eastern Cape

Simple Planting Tips

- Plant during autumn or winter when rainfall is higher.
- Water new plants regularly until established.
- Use mulch to help keep moisture in the soil.
- Group plants with similar water needs together.
- Avoid chemical pesticides.
- Choose indigenous plants suited to your area.
- Leave space between plants for growth.
- Plant wetland species together in damp or seasonally wet areas.
- Avoid heavy fertilisers and rich composts for fynbos species.
- Use local Cape Peninsula ecotype plants where possible.

Invasive Plants to Avoid

Plant Name	Why Avoid It
Port Jackson	Invasive alien species
Rooikrans	Invasive alien species
Madeira vine (<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>)	Highly invasive climber
Manatoka	Not locally indigenous / invasive risk
Yucca	Unsuitable invasive ornamental
Brachylaena	Avoid planting
Mirror bush (<i>Coprosma repens</i>)	Invasive alien species