trees of the year 2010

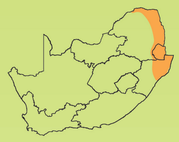





No. 189: *Acacia xanthophloea*

Family: FABACEAE (Legume Family)
Common names: fever tree (E), koorsboom (A), mooka-kwena (N. So), umHlosinga (Z), nkelenga (Tso), munzhelenga (V)

• Tall, attractive, fast-growing garden tree, up to 25 m high • Smooth, lime-green to yellow trunk • Feathery compound leaves, light green; sparsely foliated • Straight, white thorns in pairs • Clusters of yellow, scented flowers • Pods thick, with hard seeds • Root nodules enrich the soil • Can survive hot and dry conditions • Easily propagated from seed and makes a good bonsai tree








No. 131: *Cladostemon kirkii*

Family: CAPPARACEAE (Caper Family)
Common names: three-finger bush, butterfly tree (E); Tonga-kierie (E & A); umThekwini, uMusi-iyamuka, uPhanda, isiDumbu (Z)

• Large shrub or small tree, grows up to 6 m high, deciduous • Bark yellow-grey-brown, with narrow fissures • Leaves divided into three leaflets • Striking white, sweetly scented flowers with pink veins, carried on spikes • Calabash-shaped fruit with rough skin and unpleasant smell; avoid contact • Easily grown from seed or cuttings








No. 693: *Rothmannia capensis*

Family: RUBIACEAE (Coffee Family)
Common names: wild gardenia, common rothmannia (E); wildekatjiepiering (A); Modulatshwene (N. So); Mukubudu (V); umPhazane-mkhlu (Z); iBolo (X)

• Attractive evergreen tree or large shrub with dense crown and noninvasive roots • Suitable for small gardens • Glossy green leaves • Old bark cracked like crocodile skin • Large bell-shaped flowers, creamy white and strongly scented • Fruit round and hard (7 cm diameter), green, turning brown, with flat seeds in pulp • Easily propagated from seed



Attracts birds · Attracts insects · Beautiful flowers · Frost-tender · Half frost-hardy · Frost-resistant · Requires full sun · Semishade · Drought-resistant · Moderate water · Deciduous · Evergreen · Medicinal use · Useful wood

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Photographs:
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SANBI Graphics. February 2010.

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No. 693: *Rothmannia capensis*

Family: RUBIACEAE (Coffee Family)
Common names: wild gardenia, common rothmannia (E); wildekatjie-piering (A); Modulatshwene (N. So); Mukubudu (V); umPhazane-mkhlu (Z); iBolo (X)

General appearance
- Evergreen tree or large shrub, with dense crown.
- Glossy green leaves with domatia (swollen areas) in the axils of veins. Young leaves and twigs sometimes velvety-hairy.
- Old bark cracked like crocodile skin.
- Large, bell-shaped flowers, creamy white and strongly scented. Flowering in summer (Dec.–Feb.).
- Fruit round and hard (golf-ball-sized), green, turning brown. Contain flat seeds in a pulp.

Where it occurs
- Cape Peninsula up the east coast to Mpumalanga and into Limpopo.
- Coastal and evergreen forests, kloofs and rocky ridges.

Meaning of the name
- *Rothmannia*—in honour of Dr Georgius Rothman (1739–1778), pupil of the famous Swedish botanist Linnaeus.
- *capensis*—from the Cape.

Ecology and uses
- Baboons, monkeys, bushpigs and grey louries eat the fruit.
- Strong, hard wood used for household utensils such as cooking spoons. Also good firewood.
- Powdered roots used to treat leprosy and rheumatism.
- Juice from the fruit applied to wounds.

As a garden tree
- Suitable for small gardens, as the roots are noninvasive.
- Resistant to frost and does not need much water.
- Easily propagated by seed. Remove seeds from the pulp.
- Does well in sun as well as semishade.

No. 131: *Cladostemon kirkii*

Family: CAPPARACEAE (Caper Family)
Common names: three-finger bush, butterfly tree (E); Tonga-kierie (E & A); umThekwini, uMusi-iyamuka, uPhanda, isiDumbu (Z)

General appearance
- Large shrub or small tree up to 6 m, deciduous.
- Bark yellow-grey-brown, with narrow fissures.
- Leaves divided into three leaflets.
- Striking, sweetly scented, white flowers with pink veins, carried in spikes.
- Fleshy, round fruit with rough skin and strong smell.

Where it occurs
- Widespread in tropical Africa.
- In South Africa found in northern KwaZulu-Natal and then northwards through Mozambique.
- Grows in dry lowland forest and woodland in frost-free areas only.

Meaning of the name
- *Cladostemon* derived from the Greek *klados* = branch and *stemon* = stamen.
- *kirkii*—after Sir John Kirk who made the first collection from Mozambique.

Ecology and uses
- Fallen fruit and roots eaten by bushpigs.
- Flowers pollinated by bats or moths at night.
- Plants are used for ceremonial or medicinal purposes.
- Wood is brittle and not very useful.

As a garden tree
- Not commonly planted in small gardens because of the smell of the fruit.
- Plant in a secluded corner away from the house.
- Is frost sensitive.
- Fruits should not be touched, to prevent contamination with the smell.
- Easily grown from seed or cuttings.

No. 189: *Acacia xanthophloea*

Family: FABACEAE (Legume Family)
Common names: fever tree (E), koorsboom (A), mooka-kwena (N. So), umHlosinga (Z), nkelenga (Tso), munzhelenga (V)

General appearance
- Tall (25 m), attractive, fast-growing tree with distinct smooth, lime-green to yellow trunk.
- Sparsely foliated.
- Leaves feathery compound, light green.
- Straight, white thorns arranged in pairs.
- Yellow, scented flowers carried in clusters (Sep.–Nov.).
- Pods thick, splitting open to reveal hard seeds (Jan.–Apr.).

Where it occurs
- River banks, depressions, pans, swamps and moist areas from the eastern parts of KwaZulu-Natal to Kenya.
- Now occurs widely in frost-free areas in South Africa, due to being commonly planted as a garden and street tree.

Meaning of the name
- *Acacia*—refers to thorns (Greek *akis* = thorn).
- *xanthophloea*—from the Greek words *xanthos* = yellow and *phloios* = bark.
- Swampy places where fever trees grow are ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes, which carry may malaria and cause fevers.

Ecology and uses
- Insects, especially bees, visit the flowers.
- Animals eat the pods, leaves and flowers.
- Thorns provide protection for nesting birds.
- Bark is used medicinally against fever.
- Wood is hard and durable, but cracks easily.
- Bark is used against fever and eye complaints.

As a garden tree
- Popular in large gardens, adding attractive features.
- Grows fast and ideal for a start-up garden.
- Root nodules fix nitrogen, enriching the soil.
- Can survive hot and dry conditions.
- Easy to propagate from seeds soaked in hot water.
- Tolerates mild frost.
- Well suited for bonsai specimens.

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