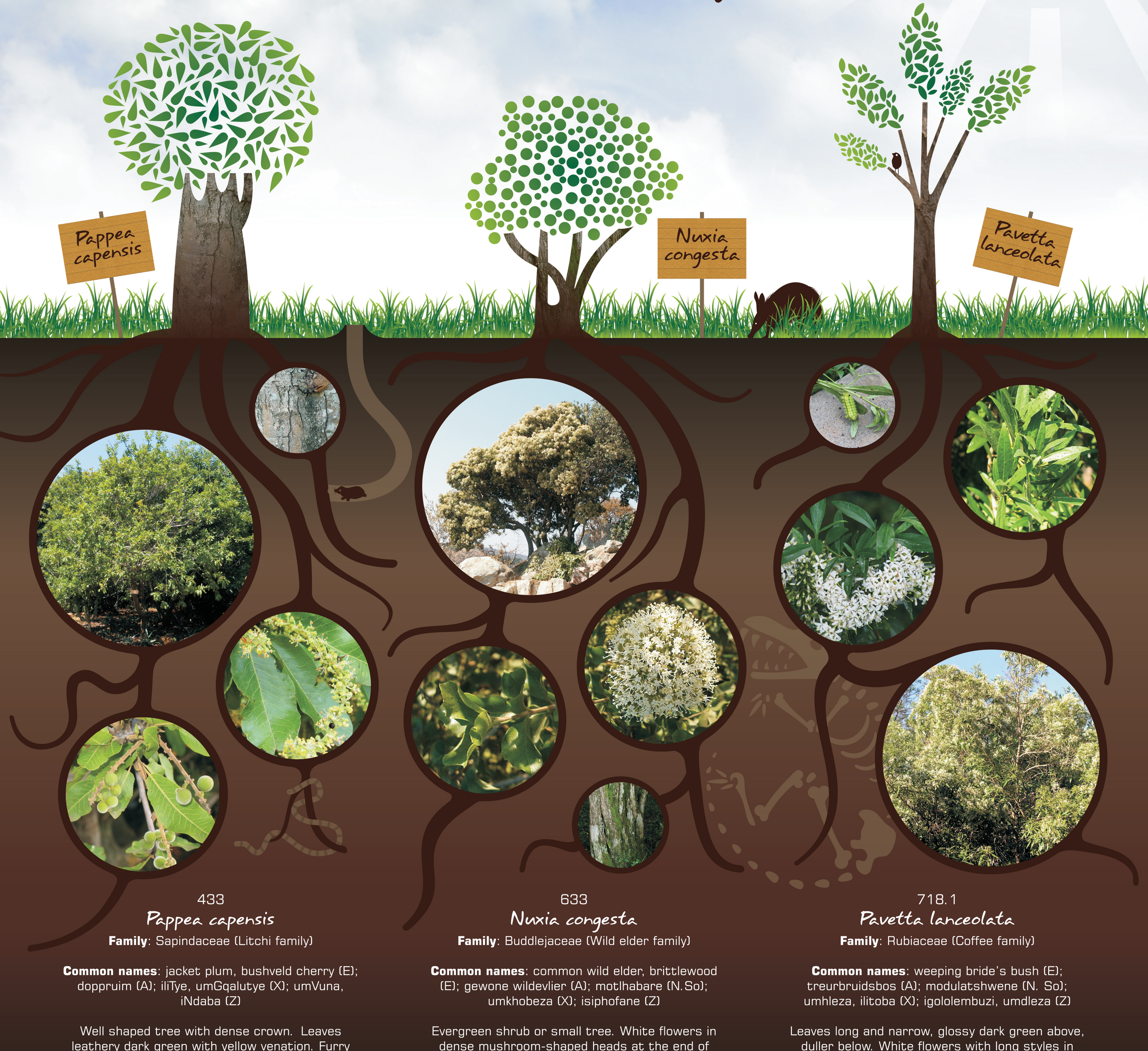
trees of the year 2011

Celebrate the **International Year of Forests** PLANT A TREE!

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433

Pappea capensis

Family: Sapindaceae (Litchi family)

Common names: jacket plum, bushveld cherry (E); doppruim (A); iliTye, umGqalutye (X); umVuna, iNdaba (Z)

Well shaped tree with dense crown. Leaves leathery dark green with yellow venation. Furry green fruit split open to reveal a single black seed. Food plant to butterfly larvae. Fruit can be made into a jam, jellies, alcoholic beverages and vinegar. Tough tree that grows easily. Ideal for pavements and school grounds.

633

Nuxia congesta

Family: Buddlejaceae (Wild elder family)

Common names: common wild elder, brittlewood (E); gewone wildevlier (A); motlhabare (N.So); umkhobeza (X); isiphofane (Z)

Evergreen shrub or small tree. White flowers in dense mushroom-shaped heads at the end of branches. Fruits are small hairy capsules. In coastal and inland forests, rocky outcrops and bushveld. Strongly scented flowers attract bees and butterflies. Hard wood is used for fence-posts and firewood. A good tree for a small garden. Can tolerate mild frost and drought.

718.1

Pavetta lanceolata

Family: Rubiaceae (Coffee family)

Common names: weeping bride's bush (E); treurbruidsbos (A); modulatshwene (N. So); umhleza, ilitoba (X); igololembuzi, umdleza (Z)

Leaves long and narrow, glossy dark green above, duller below. White flowers with long styles in dense flower heads. Small round black fruit in clusters. Coastal and evergreen forests, kloofs and rocky ridges. Flowers attract birds and insects. Excellent garden tree, especially in summer when flowers release their fragrance. Grows well in sun as well as semi-shade.

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Attracts birds
Attracts insects
Beautiful flowers
Evergreen
Requires full sun
Semi-shade
Moderate water
Drought-resistant
Medicinal use
Half frost-hardy
Frost-resistant
Useful wood
Edible

SANBI Graphics. March 2011.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS • 2011



Pappea capensis

National tree number: 433
Family: Sapindaceae (Litchi family)
Common names: jacket plum, bushveld cherry (E); doppruim (A); iliTye, umGqalutye (X); umVuna, iNdaba (Z)

General appearance

- Well shaped tree with dense crown.
- Leaves leathery dark green with yellow venation.
- Smooth, pale bark.
- Male and female flowers on separate trees.
- Fragrant yellow-green flowers in terminal drooping spikes.
- Fruit furry green, splitting open to reveal a single black seed enclosed by a fleshy orange jelly-like substance.
- Wood hard, tough and heavy.

Where it occurs

- Western Cape to Limpopo.
- Widespread in many habitats.

Meaning of the name

- *Pappea*—after the German physician and plant collector, Carl Pappe.
- *capensis*—refers to southern Africa.

Ecology and uses

- Sweetly scented flowers attract a variety of insects which, in turn, attract many birds.
- Seeds are parasitized by small, bright red bugs which suck the oil from the seed.
- Food plant to a host of butterfly larvae.
- Fruit are eaten by various birds and animals which distribute the seeds in their droppings.
- Leaves are browsed by game and domestic animals.
- Fruit can be made into a jam, jellies, alcoholic beverages and vinegar.
- Oil extracted from fruit is used in soaps, rifle oil and has medicinal value.
- Wood is used to make sticks, cattle yokes and kitchen utensils.

As a garden tree

- Tough tree that grows easily.
- Frost and drought resistant.
- Ideal for pavements and school grounds.
- Propagate from seeds. Slow-growing when young.

Nuxia congesta

National tree number: 633
Family: Buddlejaceae (Wild elder family)
Common names: common wild elder, brittlewood (E); gewone wildevlier (A); motlhabare (N.So); umkhobeza (X); isiphofane (Z)

General appearance

- Evergreen shrub or small tree.
- Bark grey-brown, shredding in length-wise strips.
- Leaves in groups of three at the end of branches; coarsely hairy.
- Many small white flowers in dense mushroom-shaped heads at the end of branches; flowering in winter (July to August).
- Fruits are small, many-seeded, hairy capsules.

Where it occurs

- In South Africa found from the Eastern Cape up to Limpopo.
- Grows in coastal and inland montane forests, rocky outcrops and bushveld.

Meaning of the name

- *Nuxia*—after M. de la Nux, French botanist from the island of Réunion.
- *congesta*—close together, referring to flower heads.

Ecology and uses

- Strongly scented flowers attract bees and butterflies.
- Wood is hard and used for fence-posts and firewood.

As a garden tree

- A good tree for a small garden.
- Grown from seeds or cuttings.
- Can tolerate mild frost and drought.

Pavetta lanceolata

National tree number: 718.1
Family: Rubiaceae (Coffee family)
Common names: weeping bride's bush (E); treurbruidsbos (A); modulatshwene (N. So); umhleza, ilitoba (X); igololembuzi, umdleza (Z)

General appearance

- Grows in coastal and inland forests.
- Shrub or small tree.
- Light grey bark with fine cracks.
- Leaves long and narrow, glossy dark green above and dull below; domatia visible as dark spots.
- Pockets of hairs in the axils of veins on the underside.
- White flowers with conspicuously long styles in dense branched flower heads; flowering in spring and summer (September to November).
- Round black fruit in clusters.

Where it occurs

- Eastern Cape along the east coast to Mpumalanga and into Limpopo.
- Coastal and evergreen forests, kloofs and rocky ridges.

Meaning of the name

- *Pavetta*—from the Sri Lankan name for this group of plant (bride bushes).
- *lanceolata*—refers to the characteristic lance shape of the leaves.

Ecology and uses

- Birds and insects visit the flowers for nectar.
- Fruits attract birds.

As a garden tree

- Excellent garden tree, especially in summer when flowers release their fragrance.
- Young plants are sensitive to cold weather, but tolerate frost when older.
- Can also be planted as hedge or screen.
- Seeds germinate easily; fallen seeds often result in many saplings.
- Grows well in sun as well as semi-shade.

For more information on the trees of the year, please visit
www.plantzafrica.com/plantoftheweek/

Text by Beate Hölscher (National Herbarium, Biosystematics Research and Biodiversity Collections). Photos by Geoff Nichols, Andrew Hankey and SANBI image collection. Design by SANBI Graphics.

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2011 was declared the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on forests and focus on their value to the people of the world.

Forests:

Are the lungs of the earth and add O_2 to the atmosphere.
Cover 31% of the total earth land area.
Provide shelter to people and habitats to biodiversity.
Are home to 80% of our terrestrial biodiversity.
Are home to 300 million people around the world.
Play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment.
Are a source of food, medicine and clean water.
Are used for production of wood and non-wood products.

Let's conserve, celebrate and become aware of the importance of forests this year!