Lords View

TREE TRAIL



Get to know 10 indigenous trees in your own time. This self-guided tree trail is easy to follow and all the trees are clearly marked with an interpretive label. Find additional information and photos on the trees along the route in this booklet.

Index

	Page
Key to symbols	1
Tree Trail map	2
Trees on the Tree Trail	
Searsia lancea	3
Vachellia xanthophloea	4
Senegalia galpinii	5
Combretum erythrophyllum	6
Olea europaea subsp. africana	7
Euclea crispa	8
Dias cotinifolia	9
Other trees on the Lords View Green Belt Trail	10
Combretum krausii	11
Vachellia karroo	12
Vachellia sieberiana var. woodii	13



Key to symbols


Requires full sun


Requires semi-shade


Requires shade


Requires lots of water


Moderate water


Drought resistant


Evergreen


Deciduous


Beautiful flowers


Frost tender


Half frost tender


Frost resistant


Wind resistant


Attracts birds


Attracts insects


Useful wood


Edible fruit

Tree Trail Map



LEGEND: Trees on the Trail: Numbers & Names

1. *Searsia lancea*
2. *Vachellia xanthophloea*
3. *Senegalia galpinii*
4. *Combretum erythrophyllum*
5. *Olea eurpaea* subsp. *africana*
6. *Euclea crispa*
7. *Dias cotninfolia*

Searsia lancea

Family: ANACARDIACEAE (Mango Family)
Common names: karee (Eng. & Afr.); mokalabata (N So); mosinabele (S So); mosabele (Tsw); mushakaladza (Venda); umhlakotshane (X)

The **Mango family** is the sixth largest tree family in southern Africa and it contains over 80 indigenous tree species. Common edible fruit and seeds are the mango, pistachio nut and cashew nut. *Searsia* can usually be distinguished by the resinous smell of its crushed leaves.

It is usually a single-stemmed, low branching tree which has a dense, soft, round canopy.



The **leaves are trifoliate** (a compound leaf with three leaflets) and provide valuable fodder for livestock. It can taint the flavour of milk if eaten in large quantities by dairy cattle, as a result of the resin contained in them.

The **fruit** are eaten by birds such as bulbuls, barbets, guineafowl and francolins. Game animals such as kudu, roan antelope and sable browse the leaves which can serve as an important food source for them in times of drought.



The sweetly scented **flowers** attract bees and other insects to them.



Its **bark** is coarse-textured, and dark grey or brown in colour on older specimens.



The **fruits**, pounded with water and allowed to ferment make a good bear. The word *karee* is said to be the original Khoi word for mead.

Searsia lancea is **named** in honour of American botanist Paul B. Sears (1891–1990) and refers to its lance-shaped leaflets.

Cultural and other uses



The hard, durable wood is used for fence posts and tool handles and , in the past, as parts of wagons. Bowls, tobacco pipes and bows were also made from the wood.

Growing *Searsia lancea*

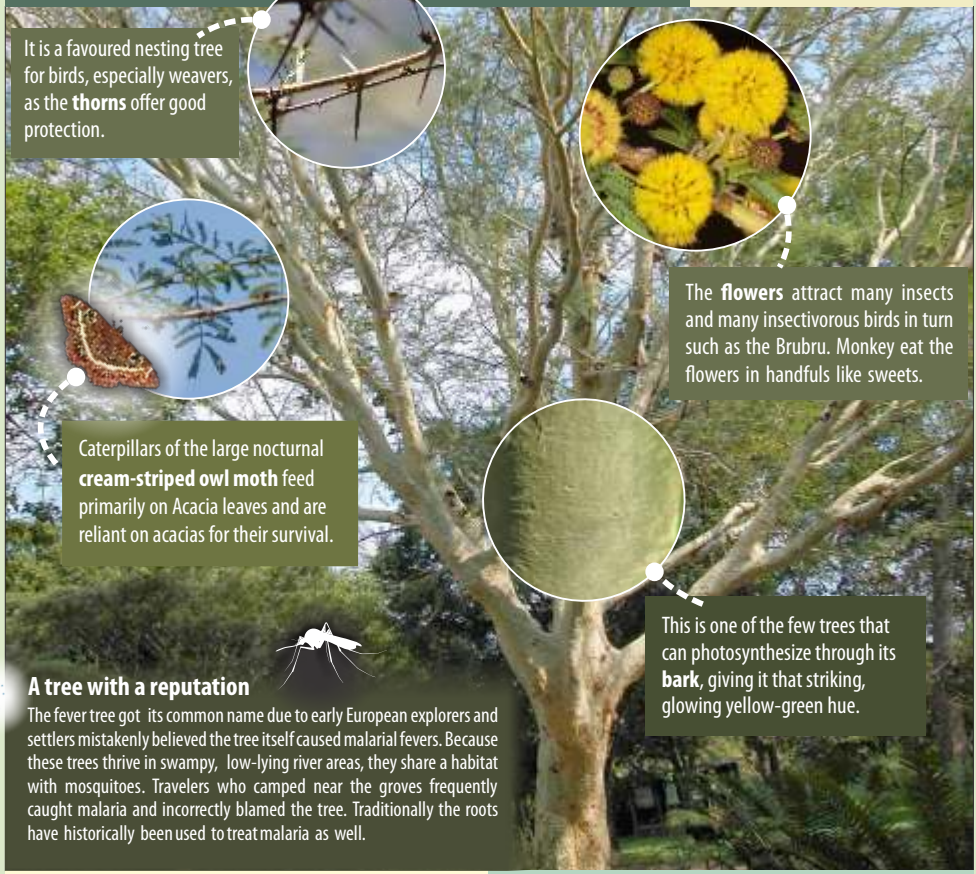


The tree is fast-growing and can be easily propagated from seed and cuttings. It can grow up to 80 cm a year and is drought and frost-resistant . It does not require any special attention once it has established its root system.

Vachellia xanthophloea

Family: FABACEAE
Common names: fever tree (Eng.); koorsboom (Afr.); mooka-kwena (N So); umHlosinga (Z); nkelenga (Tsw); munzhelenga (V)

The Fabaceae plant family plays a vital ecological role by improving soil fertility. It forms symbiotic relationships with Rhizobium bacteria, which convert atmospheric nitrogen into a form that plants can absorb, enriching the surrounding soil and benefiting neighbouring vegetation.



It is a favoured nesting tree for birds, especially weavers, as the **thorns** offer good protection.

The **flowers** attract many insects and many insectivorous birds in turn such as the Brubru. Monkey eat the flowers in handfuls like sweets.

Caterpillars of the large nocturnal **cream-striped owl moth** feed primarily on Acacia leaves and are reliant on acacias for their survival.

This is one of the few trees that can photosynthesize through its **bark**, giving it that striking, glowing yellow-green hue.

A tree with a reputation

The fever tree got its common name due to early European explorers and settlers mistakenly believed the tree itself caused malarial fevers. Because these trees thrive in swampy, low-lying river areas, they share a habitat with mosquitoes. Travelers who camped near the groves frequently caught malaria and incorrectly blamed the tree. Traditionally the roots have historically been used to treat malaria as well.

Cultural and other uses



The hard and heavy wood is suitable for general purpose timber. It needs to be seasoned before use to prevent cracking. Main stems and larger branches are used to fence out hippo from fields on the Pongola flood plain. Medicinally the bark is used for treating fevers and eye complaints.

Growing the fever tree



Fever trees are relatively easy to propagate. Seeds need to be soaked in hot water overnight before sowing. Seed can be sown in seedling trays using a well drained seedling medium and then covered lightly. When the seedlings reach the two-leaf stage they should be transplanted from seedling trays into nursery bags, taking care not to damage the long taproot.

Senegalia galpinii

Family: FABACEAE (Legume Family)
Common names: monkey-thorn (Eng.); apiesdoring (Afr.); molopa (N So); tshikwalo (V)

The previous genus name ***Acacia*** was is derived from the Greek word 'akis', meaning a point or a spike, referring to the thorns in many *Acacia* species. The South African species are armed with spines.



The **seed pods** are often eaten by kudu. Ripe pods burst open, releasing the seeds.



The fine, feathery **leaves** fold up at night.





Fairy Flycatcher

The honey-scented **flowers** attract bees and other insects as well as insectivorous birds such as the Fairy Flycatcher. Giraffes eat both flowers and leaves.



The **bark** is pale yellow and flaky.



Monkeys like taking cover in the tree's wide branches and may also eat the pods and seeds, hence the common name *monkey thorn*.

Photo credit: Warwick Tarboton

Cultural and other uses



This is a majestic specimen tree for the larger garden and a good avenue tree. It provides shade, shelter and fodder to farm animals and game. The hard wood is heavy and used for making furniture.

Growing the monkey thorn



The monkey thorn has an aggressive root system, plant it well away from buildings to prevent damage. It is easily grown from seed immersed in boiling water and soaked overnight. Protect it from frost for the first three seasons. It is fast growing and can survive hot and dry conditions.

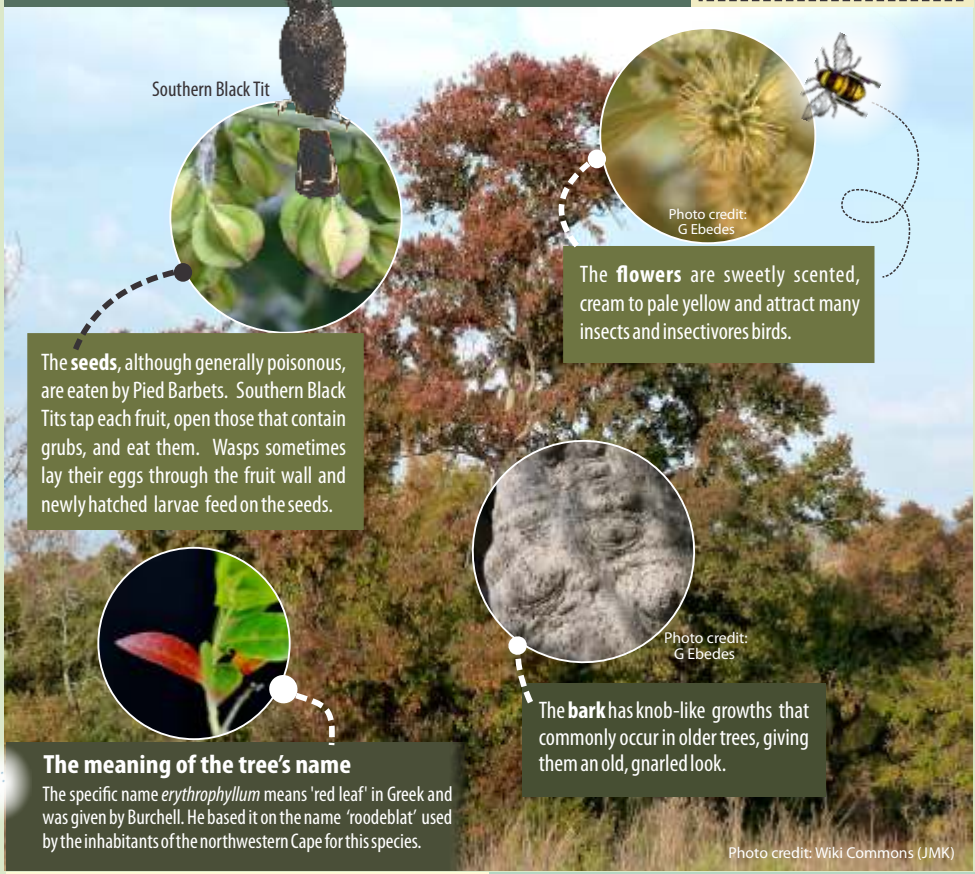


Combretum erythrophyllum

Family: COMBRETACEAE

Common names: river bushwillow (Eng.); riviervaderlandswilg (Afr.); umbondwe (Z); umdubu (X); modubo (S So); modibo (N So); mugavhi (V); umdubu (Nde)

The Combretaceae (the bushwillow or white mangrove family) predominantly consist of woody trees, shrubs, and lianas (climbing vines). They are economically and ecologically highly valued for timber, traditional medicine, and coastal stabilization.



The **seeds**, although generally poisonous, are eaten by Pied Barbets. Southern Black Tits tap each fruit, open those that contain grubs, and eat them. Wasps sometimes lay their eggs through the fruit wall and newly hatched larvae feed on the seeds.

The **flowers** are sweetly scented, cream to pale yellow and attract many insects and insectivores birds.

The **bark** has knob-like growths that commonly occur in older trees, giving them an old, gnarled look.

The meaning of the tree's name

The specific name *erythrophyllum* means 'red leaf' in Greek and was given by Burchell. He based it on the name 'roodeblat' used by the inhabitants of the northwestern Cape for this species.

Cultural and other uses



The gum is non-toxic, elastic and produces a non-cracking varnish. The roots are used as a purgative and to treat venereal diseases. Ornaments, fence posts, building poles, cattle troughs and grain mortars are made from the wood. A dark, rich brown dye is extracted from the roots.

Growing the river bushwillow



This species produce lots of seed and seedlings are often to be found under the trees. The tree grows easily from fresh seed which should be soaked for some hours before planting. Seedlings appear 7-13 days after planting. The seedlings are frost resistant after two years. It is drought and frost resistant and fast growing under good conditions.

Olea europaea subsp. *africana*

Family: OLEACEAE

Common names: wild olive (Eng.); olienhout (Afr.); mohlware (N So & S So); umnquma (Z, X, Sw); mutlhwari (V); motlhware (Tsw)

The wild olive is closely related to the edible olive as they belong to the same species, *Olea europaea*. The wild olive is the direct ancestor of the commercial olive tree used for oil and table consumption. All olives must be cured or fermented in brine, lye, or water to break down the bitterness before they are enjoyable to eat.



Sprays of tiny, lightly scented white to greenish **flowers** are carried from October to February.





Cape Parrot

The **fruits** are popular with people, monkeys, baboons, mongooses, bushpigs, warthogs and birds e.g. Starlings, African Olive Pigeons, African Green Pigeons, Cape Parrots and Turacos.



The rough, grey **bark** sometimes peels off in strips.



The **leaves** are grey-green to dark-green above and greyish below.

Very useful wood

The hard, heavy and beautiful golden-brown wood is used for furniture, ornaments, spoons and durable fence posts. It is a popular tree for bonsai.



Cultural and other uses



A tea can be made from the leaves and an ink is made from the juice of the fruit. Traditional remedies serve as eye lotions and tonics, to lower blood pressure, improve kidney function and deal with sore throats. The early Cape settlers used the fruits to treat diarrhoea.

Growing the wild olive



Propagate the tree from seed or from hardwood cuttings. Sow fresh seed in river sand. Treat cuttings with a rooting hormone. The slow-growing frost, drought and wind-resistant wild olive makes a good shade or screen plant in the home garden, on golf courses and elsewhere.



Euclea crispa

Family: EBENACEAE

Common names: blue guarri (Eng.); bloughwarrie (Afr.); umgwali (X), motlhaletsogane (Tsw); idungamuzi (Z)

The Ebenaceae family includes ebony and persimmon. The ripe fruits of many species are a food source for many animals and the foliage is consumed by insects. The plants may have a strong scent. Some species have aromatic wood, such as ebony.



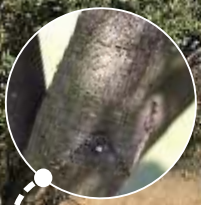
The bell-shaped **flowers** appear from spring to summer. They attract bees with their sweet scent. The male and female flowers are on separate trees.



The tough leathery **leaves** are fire-resistant, and fresh branches are used to beat out veld fires.



The fleshy **fruit** are edible. Only female trees produce seed.



The **bark** is varies from grey to dark brown and is often covered in lichen. Black rhino enjoy browsing the leaves.

A natural toothbrush on safari!

The chewed end of a twig can serve as a toothbrush in the veld.



Cultural and other uses



An infusion of the root is taken orally as a remedy for diabetes and also to prevent rheumatism and epilepsy. The roots yield a dark brown dye when boiled, which is used economically to colour wool, mats and baskets.

Growing the blue guarrii



The blue guarri is slow-growing and is easily propagated from fresh seed collected during autumn. Remove the thin fleshy seed covering and sow as soon as possible after harvesting in a 10 cm deep seedling tray with a mix of firm rich soil and compost. Place the seeds on top and cover with a layer of river sand to a depth of 5 mm. Keep moist.

Dias cotinifolia

Family: THYMELAEACEAE (Fibrebark Family)
Common names: pompom tree (Eng.); basboom (Afr.); intozani (X); intozwane-emnyama (Z)

This is a medium-sized family of shrubs and small trees found in a variety of habitats around the world. Some species are cultivated as ornamental shrubs and trees such as the pompom tree.

The smooth, simple **leaves** are bright green, sometimes with a bluish tinge on the upper side. In very cold areas the tree is deciduous.

Tiny **seeds** are formed at the bottom of the little flowers and are ready to collect about a month or two after flowering.

Masses of nectar-rich **flowers** attract many butterflies and bees. Insectivorous birds are, in turn, attracted to the tree when it is in flower.

The **bark** is extremely fibrous and tough.

A very descriptive name

When the pompom tree is in flower from November to December, it looks like a giant candy floss as it transforms into a cloud of soft pink fluff balls. *Dais* means a 'torch' in Greek, and the genus got its name from the resemblance of the stalk and bracts holding the flowers as a torch about to be lit.



Cultural and other uses

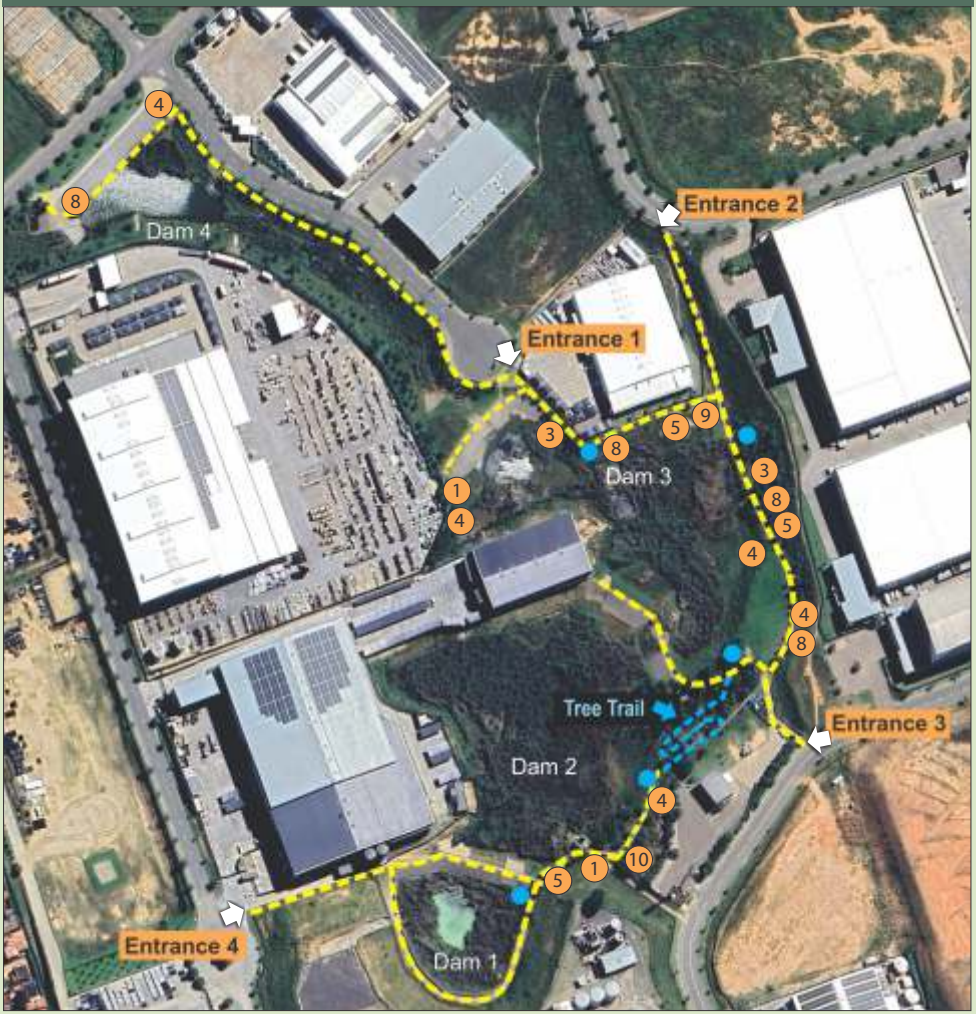
The bark tears off in long strips and is considered to have extremely strong fibres. Africans, who use the bark as thread or cord, say that it has the strongest fibre of any tree in KwaZulu-Natal. It is remarkably difficult to break off twigs or branches due to the tough, sinuous bark.



Growing the pompom tree

The tree grows easily from seed. Sow the seed in spring or early summer in seed trays filled with a well-drained medium. Cover it lightly with fine milled bark or sand, place in a shady position and keep moist. To improve the germination, treat the seed with a fungicide that prevents damping off.

Other indigenous trees on the Lords View Green Belt Trail



LEGEND: Trees on the Trail: Numbers & Names

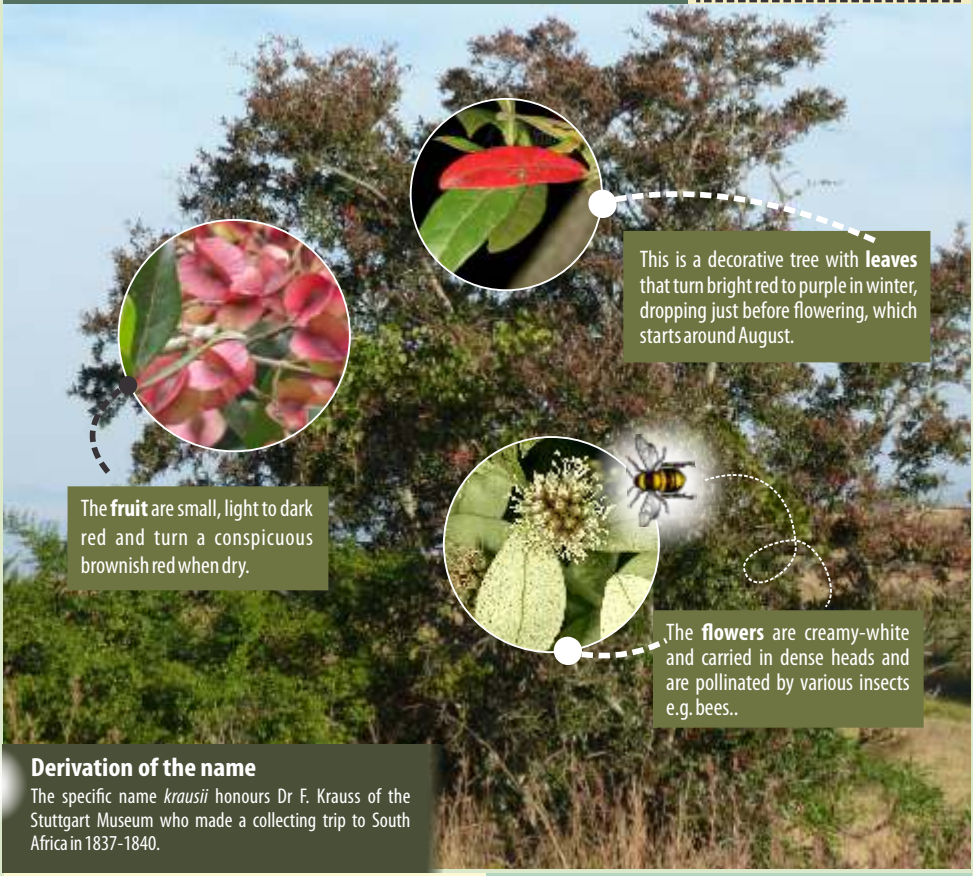
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6. *Euclea crispa*
7. *Dias cotninfolia*
8. *Combretum erythrophyllum*
9. *Vachellia karroo*
10. *Vachellia sieberiana* var. *woodii*

Combretum krausii

Family: COMBRETACEAE

Common names: forest bushwillow (Eng.); bosvaderlandswilg (Afr.); uhwabhu (Z); ulandile (X); umdvubu (Sw); modlubu (N So); muvuvhu (V)

Combretums are pollinated by various kinds of insects, including bees. They have adapted to wind dispersal by developing a wing-like fruit structure that can carry the seed with the help of air currents or wind.



This is a decorative tree with **leaves** that turn bright red to purple in winter, dropping just before flowering, which starts around August.

The **fruit** are small, light to dark red and turn a conspicuous brownish red when dry.

The **flowers** are creamy-white and carried in dense heads and are pollinated by various insects e.g. bees..

Derivation of the name

The specific name *krausii* honours Dr F. Krauss of the Stuttgart Museum who made a collecting trip to South Africa in 1837-1840.

Cultural and other uses



The young stems are pliable and used in basket-making. The wood is tough and yellowish in colour; the sawdust can however cause a skin irritation. Certain parts of the tree are used to produce antidiuretics, lotions for eye infections as well as antiseptics.

Growing the forest bushwillow

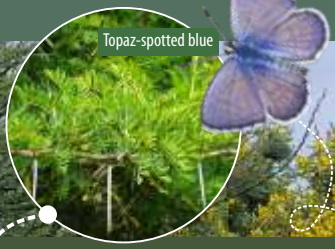


Take the seed out of the fruit covering and soak it for an hour or so before sowing. Sow the seeds at a depth of 3-5 mm below the surface in a well-drained medium. The first seedlings appears 9 to17 days after sowing. All seeds should have germinated after 15 to 29 days.

Vachellia karroo

Family: FABACEAE (Legume Family)
Common names: sweet thorn (Eng.); soetdoring (Afr.); mookana (N So); mooka (Tsw); umuNga (Z & X)

Vachellia species feature prominent, paired thorns. These formidable thorns act as an evolutionary defense against megaherbivores and browsing animals. The thorns on sweet thorn trees can grow from 2 to 25 cm long. Thorns on lower branches are generally longer to deter browsing animals.

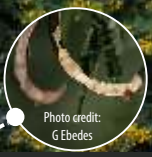


Birds like to nest in thorn trees as the **thorns** offer them some protection from predators. Caterpillars of 10 species of butterflies are dependant on the **leaves** for survival e.g. the topaz-spotted blue (*Azanus jesous*).

The **flowers** appear in early summer in a mass of yellow pompons. Many insects visit and pollinate these flowers.



The **thorns** are paired and are long and straight. On mature trees, the thorns may be quite short. They may be held at 90° to the stem or raked forward slightly.



It is a particularly good fodder tree, stock and game feed on the leaves, flowers and **pods**



The tree has many medicinal uses ranging from wound poultices to eye treatments and cold remedies. The **bark**, leaves and gum are usually used.

An extremely useful tree

The sweet thorn gets its common name from the **gum** which is exuded from wounds in the bark. The gum is pleasant tasting and eaten by people and animals, including the Lesser Bushbaby which feeds exclusively on insects and gum from Acacia trees. It also had commercial value in the past when the gum was exported as "Cape Gum" for making confectionary. This is apparently similar to gum arabic which is used as a water soluble glue.

Cultural and other uses



The sweet thorn is integrally part of our country's history, having been used for everything from raft-making to sewing needles and fencing for the houses of the royal Zulu women. The thorns were even used by early naturalists to pin the insects they collected.

Growing the sweet thorn



It may be grown from seed soaked in hot water and left overnight. Sow the following morning. Seedling trays with seedling mix can be used, or the seeds could be sown directly into black bags. Cover lightly with sand and do not allow to dry out.

Vachellia sieberiana var. *woodii*

Family: FABACEAE (Legume Family)

Common names: paperbark thorn (Eng.); papierbasdoring (Afr.); Mphoka (N So); Mokha (Tsw); Musaunga (V); umKhamba (Z); Nkowankowa (Tso)

The **Fabaceae** (legume, pea or bean family), is a large and agriculturally important plant family. The fruits are easily recognised and the leaves are compound. It is the third largest plant family in number of species.



The **pods** have a musty scent (like old socks) and are eaten by cattle and game. They contain hydrocyanic acid, so the quantities fed to livestock should be limited.



Common scarlet butterfly

Balls of scented, creamy white to yellow **flowers**, borne in spring to summer, attract beetles bees, butterflies and thrips.



Green Wood-hoopoe

It is a favourite **nesting site** for many birds. Pied and Crested Barbets make their nesting holes in this tree. Green Wood-hoopoes often scratch around under the loose bark for insects and Grey Hornbills crack the pods open and eat the seeds.



The flaky, corky **bark** makes the tree easy to identify. The papery barks peels off in flattish strips, revealing the yellow underbark.

Where does the name come from?

Vachellia refers to George Harvey Vachell (1789—1839), chaplain to the British East India Company in Macoa, who collected plants in China.

Cultural and other uses



In Central Africa, a bark/root decoction is used for inflammation of the urinary passages. Leaves, bark and resin are used as an astringent for colds and chest problems. The edible gum is a good adhesive. Twine from the inner bark is used for threading beads.

Growing the sweet thorn



It is easily propagated from seed covered by boiling water and soaked overnight, These trees can become huge and are suited for medium to large gardens and parks. It is half-hardy to frost and very fast-growing with fertile soil and sufficient water.



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