

# 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)

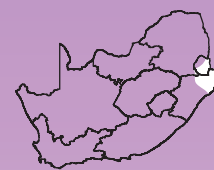
- Tall, attractive, fast-growing garden tree, up to 25 m high • Smooth, lime-green to yellow trunk • Feathery compound leaves, light green; sparsely foliated
- Straight, white thorns in pairs • Clusters of yellow, scented flowers • Pods thick, with hard seeds • Root nodules enrich the soil • Can survive 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)

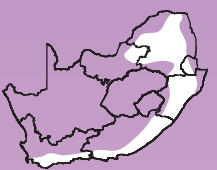
- Large shrub or small tree, grows up to 6 m high, deciduous • Bark yellow-grey-brown, with narrow fissures • Leaves divided into three leaflets • Striking white, sweetly scented flowers with pink veins, carried on spikes
- Calabash-shaped fruit with rough skin and unpleasant smell; avoid contact • Easily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



No. 693: *Rothmannia capensis*

Family: RUBIACEAE (Coffee Family)  
 Common names: wild gardenia, common rothmannia (E); wildekattjiepiering (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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## 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)

### 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); Tongakierie (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-tender.
- \* 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.

## What is the International Year of Biodiversity 2010?

The United Nations General Assembly declared that 2010 will be the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), and will help raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity all over the world. It is an opportunity to:



- \* Stress the importance of biodiversity for our wellbeing.
- \* Reflect on our achievements to safeguard biodiversity so far.
- \* Encourage a redoubling of our efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss.

Saving biodiversity requires effort from everyone. Through activities around the world, the global community will work together to ensure a sustainable future for us all.

### South African National Biodiversity Institute

Address: Private Bag X101, Pretoria 0001  
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Fax: (012) 804 3211  
Visit: [www.sanbi.org](http://www.sanbi.org)

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### The Botanical Society of South Africa

Address: Private Bag X10, Claremont 7735  
Tel: 021 797 2090  
Fax: 021 797 2376  
E-mail: [info@botanicalsociety.org.za](mailto:info@botanicalsociety.org.za)

### Photographs:

Andrew Hankey, Geoff Nichols, Beate and Johan Hölscher

### Trees-ID - Wally Doubell

Cell: 082 891 7625  
Email: [info@trees-id.co.za](mailto:info@trees-id.co.za)  
Tree identification and supplier of tree name plaques