trees of the year

Celebrate the International Year of Forests
PLANT A TREE!

**433 Papeea capensis**
*Family: Sapindaceae* (Sapindus family)

*Common names:* jacket plum, bushwillow cherry (E); dappled (A); ilifiye, umDloko (Zi); uduna, mtshila (Zi)

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 vinegars. Rough tree that grows easily, ideal for pavements and school grounds.

**633 Nuxia congesta**
*Family: Buxaceae* (Wild elder family)

*Common names:* common wild elder, brittlewood (E); gwrege wild elder (A); mothobane (N So); umkhoba (Zi); isipholane (Zi)

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 Pavetta lanceolata**
*Family: Rubiaceae* (Coffee family)

*Common names:* weeping bride’s bush (E); breembrudskop (A); molokoshweni (N So); umhlaza, litoza (Zi); iguqobuzi, umxomaza (Zi)

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, hills 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.
**Pappea capensis**

**National tree number:** 433  
**Family:** Sapindaceae (Kaffir lime family)  
**Common names:** Jackal plum, bush cherry (Z); druparum (A); iitye, umqaluyane (X); umvuna, iNdbaba (Z)

**General appearance**  
- Well-shaped tree with dense crown.  
- Light grey bark with greenish yellow venation.  
- Smooth, pale bark.  
- Male and female flowers on separate trees.  
- Fragrant yellow-green flowers in terminal drooping clusters.  
- Fruit fleshy green, splitting open to reveal a single black seed enclosed in a fleshy orange jelly-like exudate.  
- Wood hard, tough and heavy.

**Where it occurs**  
- Western Cape to Limpopo.  
- Watered areas in many habitats.

**Meaning of the name**  
- *Pappea*—after the German physician and plant collector, Cor Pappe.  
- *capensis*—refers to southern Africa.

**Ecology and uses**  
- Beauty shrub flowers attract a variety of insects within, in turn, attract many birds.  
- Seeds are parasitized by small, bright red bugs which seek 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 has been used as a jam, jelly, alcoholic beverages and wine.  
- Wood is hard and used for fences, stakes and kitchen utensils.

As a garden tree  
- Tough tree that grows easily.  
- Fruits and druparum resinate.  
- Ideal for pavers and sand grounds.  
- Propagate from seeds. Slow-growing when young.

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**Nuvia congesta**

**National tree number:** 633  
**Family:** Rubiaceae (Coffee family)  
**Common names:** Common wild elder, bumblewood (Z); gewone wilde tuier (A); motlhabe (X); umkhoze (X); isiphofane (Z)

**General appearance**  
- Evergreen shrub or small tree.  
- Bark grey-brown, shedding in lengthwise strips.  
- Leaves in groups of three at the end of branches: coriaceous.  
- 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 mesic forests, rocky outcrops and bushveld.

**Meaning of the name**  
- *Nuvia*—after M. de la Nue, French botanist from the island of Reunion.  
- *congesta*—close together, referring to flower heads.

**Ecology and uses**  
- Strongly aromatic flowers attract bees and butterflies.  
- Wood is hard and used for fences, 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.

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**Pavetta lanceolata**

**National tree number:** 718.1  
**Family:** Rubiaceae (Coffee family)  
**Common names:** Gooseberry bush (Z); treevruiktebos (A); modukhathweni (X); umfleza (X), iltzobo (X); igolodhombini, umfleza (Z)

**General appearance**  
- Grows in coastal and inland forests.  
- Bush or small tree.  
- Light grey bark with fine crevices.  
- Leaves long and narrow, glossy dark green above and dull below, concolorous or dark green.  
- Pocket of hairs in the axils of leaves on the underside.  
- White flowers with conspicuous 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 Mpuamelanga and into Limpopo.  
- Coastal and evergreen forests, klip and rocky ridges.

**Meaning of the name**  
- *Pavetta*—from the Greek name for this group of plants, the gooseberry.  
- *lanceolata*—refers to the characteristic lance shape of the leaves.

**Ecology and uses**  
- Birds and small mammals attract the flowers for nectar.  
- Fruits eaten raw.

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