



A Guide to Planting an African-American/African Focused Yard in Miami-Dade County:

A Selection of Ornamental African Plants Suitable for the Miami-Dade Landscape

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The sub-tropical climate of Miami-Dade permits the use of many outstanding landscape plants native to Africa. Whilst many of the world's most esteemed ornamental plants are from east and especially Southern Africa, an attempt has been made to include plants indigenous to other parts of sub-Saharan Africa, especially W. Africa. The plants discussed are arranged in alphabetical order according to the currently accepted scientific name for each plant¹.

Some of the plants described below are adapted to far more arid conditions than prevail in south Florida. Whilst this is advantageous in terms of landscape water needs, care should be taken when choosing a site for installing such plants. They will all require excellent drainage, good air circulation and full sun, though a few can withstand slight shade. Part of the yard could be developed as a dry rock garden to feature these plants. This entails choosing an open site in full sun, and constructing raised beds using rubble and larger rocks and filling in with coarse sand and gravel². Some organic material, such as garden compost, coir or sphagnum peat plus grit can be incorporated with the sand where plants are to be installed.

Plants that are especially tender may be damaged during the cooler months of the year, and this is indicated in the descriptions below. When the threat of cold weather has passed for the season, any dead branches/stems should be removed, and in most instances new growth will resume in late winter – spring.

Unless otherwise noted only items that will have some degree of permanency in the landscape are listed, and for the purpose of this publication these include herbaceous perennials, shrubs, vines, and trees. Some of the herbaceous perennials that grow from bulbs or corms are poorly adapted to the hot wet summers of south Florida. After they cease flowering and the foliage dies down it is advisable to lift them and store for replanting later in the year.

Whilst many of the listed plants are available locally, some may have to be ordered from mail order sources within the U.S., or in some instances grown from seed. Local plant society sales are often a useful source for difficult to find plants. Less commonly available plants are printed in **light blue**, whilst those that should be the easiest to find are printed in **violet**. The remaining plants are available locally, though possibly not year round or at all locations. For a very limited number of the plants listed, little information is available on their use in Miami-Dade landscapes. However these are plants that have many attractive features, and for this reason they are worth trying so as to assess their potential under local conditions.

Palms and cycads are listed separately and can be accessed by using the back button and selecting the section titles 'A Selection of Palms and Cycads native to Africa'.

The following symbols are used to signify various characteristics of the plants listed. If you have an idea of the type of plant you require, this will enable you to quickly scan the list for items with those attributes:

¹ The plants described below can be found listed by common name at the end of this document.

² For further detailed information including a selection of succulents, many from Africa, go to the Miami-Dade County Extension web site at <http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/publications.htm> and select the publication 'Succulents in Miami-Dade: Planting a Dry Rock Garden'.

- Σ Flowering tree
- Υ Trees that provide year round shade, often grown for their attractive form or foliage
- Ϛ Flowering shrub/herbaceous perennial
- χ True vines and sprawling shrubs that usually require some form of support a support.
- Plants having attractive, often colorful foliage as their principal landscape attribute
- δ Plants grown from bulbs, corms and underground rhizomes.
- Δ Succulents – plants having thick fleshy leaves or stems adapted for water storage.
- Ε Ground cover – usually low growing often spreading plants, used to fill in areas between other landscape features.
- λ Plants that either require dry soil and/or are able to withstand drought conditions.

Acacia tortilis (**Umbrella thorn** – Fabaceae) Σλ One of a number of acacias found in sub-Saharan and E. Africa with their characteristic flat topped crown. Attractive, rough, usually spiny, dark brown bark; feathery foliage; many yellow, small, fluffy, globular flowers. Grows to 30' and used for the production of gum arabic. Has become invasive in areas of the Pacific and Australia. Grow in full sun – not particular as to soil providing it is free draining.

Acokanthera oblongifolia (**Poison arrow plant** – Apocynaceae). Σ Found in Mozambique and South Africa, this and other members of the genus have terminal clusters of small pinkish-white, sweet smelling flowers and attractive stiff leathery leaves, and grow to 15-20'. Tolerant of full sun, the plant benefits from some afternoon shade during the hottest days of the year. Choose a site with free draining soil, and although drought tolerant, *Acokanthera spp.* will respond to supplemental water. This and other plants in the genus make attractive landscape items but are not widely used, probably because they are extremely poisonous, especially the seeds. Like many other members of the Apocynaceae, *A. oblongifolia* produces copious amounts of milky sap, and this was used by African Bushmen as part of the poison applied to arrow tips.

Adansonia digitata (**Baobab** – Malvaceae) ΣΥ A signature feature of the E. African savanna, this is probably the continents most familiar tree. The massive squat trunk can be up to 36' in diameter and 60' in height. Leaves palmately compound in mature specimens, flowers with white petals up to 8" in diameter on long hanging

stalks appear briefly before new leaves. Pollinated mainly by bats. The tree is dormant during dry part of the year and should not be watered. Needs full sun and thrives on poor soil. Only exceptionally large sites are suitable for landscape use, however it can also be grown in a container as a bonsai tree. There are many other baobabs including the striking Madagascar species, *A. grandidieri*. This grows with a straight 75-100' tall 9' diameter trunk with smooth rust to grey bark. The narrow flat canopy consists of a few thickened branches at the very top of the tree.

Adenia spp. (n/a - Passifloraceae) 🌿🌱 A group of caudiciform (swollen base) succulent plants found in arid parts of southern and eastern Africa. Although not as showy as their South American cousins (the passion flower vines), *Adenia* spp. are nonetheless striking for the huge partly underground swollen base they develop. *Adenia globosa* has a 3' by 3' round knobby rootstock with spiny leafless branches, whilst *Adenia spinosa* develops a flatter wider (1½ - 4') rootstock from which grow many thin spiny intertwined stems bearing small slightly lobed leaves. For all species, male and female flowers are borne on separate plants and are small, bell shaped to tubular, green to yellow. *Adenia* require full sun and a gritty free draining soil – try a raised bed in a dry rock garden². They are grown more often wide containers. During winter they become more or less dormant and lose leaves at which time they should be watered sparingly. Watch for root and stem rots in Miami-Dade's seasonally wet climate.

Adenium obesum (**Desert rose** - Apocynaceae) 🌿🌱 Desert rose and closely related plants are found in sub-Saharan, east and southern Africa. A striking succulent that eventually develops a swollen stem (caudex) and is covered with masses of showy red to pink tubular flowers^a particular in winter and spring. Usually seen growing in wide shallow containers, but desert rose can be successfully grown in the landscape in full sun as part of dry rock garden².

Afrocarpus gracilior syn. *Podocarpus gracilior* (**African fern pine** – Podocarpaceae) 🌿🌲 A small genus of evergreen cone bearing trees and shrubs found only in east and southern Africa, and restricted to humid highlands. The African fern pine, also commonly known as weeping podocarpus, is an erect tree growing to 50' with drooping branch tips and fine textured foliage. Trees are dioecious (male and female cones on separate trees) with cones produced during summer. Choose a protected site in partial shade to full sun. This tree is moderately drought tolerant once established. Unless pruned lower branches will touch the ground, completely hiding the trunk. An excellent choice as a shade tree where there are concerns over invasive roots – can be planted next to driveways and sidewalks. Much less often encountered in Florida is *Afrocarpus falcatus* (**yellow-wood**), a slow growing tree to about 40' with stiffer looking branches than *A. gracilior* and blue green foliage, that

^a More detailed information is available in the publication “The Desert Rose (*Adenium obesum*)” available from the Miami/Dade Extension Office or download from:

<http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/commorn/publications/desert-rose.PDF>

develops more of a pyramidal shape. This tree requires moist soil and benefits from mulching. A related species, *Afrocarpus usambarensis* is found in mountainous areas of eastern central Africa and at more than 220', is purported to be the tallest of all African trees.

Azelia quanzensis (**Lucky bean tree** – Fabaceae) λΣ A small tree with scaly bark and a spreading crown found in dry woodland and thickets of eastern and southern Africa. The leaves are about 12" long, compound, made up of 3" oblong leathery leaflets. Flowers are very fragrant, spirally arranged in an upright raceme/panicle, each with a single large crimson petal. Choose a site in full sun with perfect drainage – this is a highly drought tolerant tree that will not survive in waterlogged soil.

Aloe arborescens (**Candelabra aloe** – Asphodelaceae) ζλΔ Many aloes are native to eastern and southern Africa, including this 8-10' shrub like species, which is ideal for a dry rock garden (see reference in footnote 5 for a detailed account).

Aptenia cordifolia (**Baby sun rose** – Aizoaceae) λEΔ A trailing plant from South Africa with fleshy leaves and pink to purple daisy-like flowers. Best suited as a groundcover for dry sites in full sun. 'Red Apple' is the most commonly grown cultivar; more recently a white flowered form ('Sunny Sue') has become available; there is a slower growing variety with variegated foliage.

Babiana spp. (**Baboon flower** – Iridaceae) δ This is a large group of colorful herbaceous perennials from South Africa that are found in open coastal sites, and can be grown from corms or seed. Leaves are short, lance shaped and pleated with a covering of fine hairs, and die down after flowering. Flowers, which appear in late spring to mid-summer, form loose to dense spikes, and are tubular with flared petals ranging from white to cream, yellow, pink, red, mauve, purple and blue and often have an attractive fragrance. In south Florida corms can be planted in late fall about 2-3" deep and 2" apart in a light free draining soil with full sun exposure. Do not water until shoots appear, at which time maintain soil moisture until plants have flowered, and then allow soil to dry out. The foliage dies down after flowering in mid to late summer, at which time corms are prone to rot in south Florida. They can be lifted at that time and stored in a cool dry place until late fall when they can again be set out in the landscape. Baboon flower can also be grown from seed sown in a light sandy soil during early fall, with flowering plants 18 months later. These colorful plants are most likely to succeed in a dry rock garden. There are many species, however *Babiana stricta* is most commonly grown and there are several hybrid varieties such as the fragrant Kew hybrids in pastel colors, 'Blue Gem' violet blue, 'Dark Mood' purplish red, and 'Scintillation' a mix of lavender and white.

Barleria obtusa (**Bush violet** – Acanthaceae) ζ The Barleria are found in Old World tropics, the Philippine violet (*Barleria cristata*) being most familiar in South Florida

where it has become naturalized and weedy. The bush violet from South Africa is a small shrub, to about 3' though with shade it becomes taller and somewhat leggy. The leaves are 2-3" in length, grayish green with up turned margins. The flowers are tubular, composed of five violet petals with flared lips. The plant is available in South Florida as the cultivar 'Purple Dazzler', with deeper colored flowers. *B. obtusa* can be planted in full sun, though it is best to provide some shade from hot afternoon sun. Incorporate some organic matter into the planting site, and provide a slow release fertilizer twice a year. This is a drought tolerant plant, however it will respond well to additional water as required.

Barringtonia racemosa (**Powder puff** or **Fish poison tree** - Lecythidaceae) Σ Native to a wide area that includes E. Africa, this tree has spectacular, fragrant, 3' long, pink to red, hanging flower spikes that open at night. Very long narrow leaves with prominent veins. Found in mangroves so it is tolerant of brackish water, but will grow inland if soil is sufficiently moist. Provide full sun to light shade. A recent introduction to Miami-Dade of very limited availability.

Bauhinia spp. (**Orchid trees** - Leguminosae) ΣΧς A number of species are native to Africa, of which *Bauhinia galpini* syn. *B. punctata* (**Pride of the Cape**) is the best known. This grows as a spreading to climbing shrub, with the "cloven hoof" shaped leaves typical of the genus, and masses of showy brick red orchid-like flowers during the warmest part of the year. Unlike most other Bauhinias *B. galpini* sets few seeds, and is not invasive. Also found in tropical Africa is *Bauhinia tomentosa* (**St. Thomas tree** or yellow bauhinia), a small tree with creamy yellow flowers, as well as *Bauhinia rufescens*, a small tree/shrub with pendant branches bearing small 1" bifid leaves and creamy yellow fragrant flowers. Less frequently cultivated is *Bauhinia petersiana*, a small tree from Zimbabwe with crinkled white flowers. All of the above plants are drought tolerant and should be grown in full sun with regular applications of fertilizer - Bauhinias can develop nutritional problems (iron and potassium deficiencies) in South Florida.

Bolusanthus speciosus (**Tree Wisteria** – Leguminosae) λΣ A small, often multi-trunk deciduous tree, from E. Africa with compound leaves and long pendant sprays of violet/purple, pea-like flowers that appear just before the new foliage. Fast growing with adequate water and enriched soil, but drought tolerant once established. Older trees develop attractively fissured bark.

Bulbine frutescens (**Snake Flower** - Asphodelaceae) ςλΔ Widespread in the Cape Provinces of South Africa, bulbines are similar in appearance to aloes to which they are closely related. These are clump forming plants which like aloes produce a rosette of thick fleshy leaves (margins entire not spiny like aloes) from which a long flower stem emerges. The inflorescence consists of a raceme of small yellow to orange star-shaped flowers (aloe inflorescence similar however individual flowers are tubular). Fast growing, *B. frutescens* should be planted in full sun with no more

than a brief period of light afternoon shade. It can be used as a low maintenance groundcover/bedding plant in locations having excellent drainage and a free draining gritty soil (suitable for use in a dry rock garden). In south Florida bulbine flowers for most of the year – best if spent flowers are removed. Like *Aloe vera* the leaves contain a mucilaginous gel which is used in South Africa as a skin emollient. *Bulbine frutescens* is one of the 2006 plant selections of the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscapers Association

Calodendrum capense (**Cape chestnut** – Rutaceae) ΣΥ Found in S.E Africa, favoring areas having free draining but moist humus enriched soil. Cape chestnut is used in Southern California as a landscape/street tree, but little information on use in Florida. During early spring to early summer it bears spectacular terminal flower panicles with pinkish mauve petals. Apart from the showy floral display, *C. capense* develops into an excellent medium size shade tree that is reported to have non-invasive roots. Requires a sheltered site (not tolerant of wind) in full sun; could possibly develop nutritional problems on Miami-Dade's limestone, since it prefers slightly acidic soils. Host to the psyllid vector of citrus greening (a serious bacterial disease of citrus trees), which casts doubt on any use for this tree in Florida.

Carpobrotus edulis . (**Hottentot Fig** - Aizoaceae) λEΔ A trailing succulent from South Africa with yellow to deep pink flowers, that is drought and salt tolerant - especially useful in coastal settings. Inland, choose a dry location in full sun – has escaped cultivation in some areas of the world with Mediterranean type climates.

Carissa macrocarpa (**Natal plum** – Apocynaceae) ςλE This is a mounding shrub that can grow up to 30', but is usually seen at 4-6'. It is native to coastal areas of northern South Africa (where it is also known as big num-num), into Mozambique and is found in open bush and at the margins of wooded areas. Natal plum is much branched, with small, round to oval, thick glossy leaves with a distinct pointed tip. The white, jasmine-like flowers are fragrant, and followed by bright red, 2" egg-shaped edible fruit. All parts of the plant produce copious amounts of milky white latex when injured. A distinguishing feature is the presence of many bifurcate (twice forked) spines and this, together with an ability to withstand repeated clipping, made it popular for use as a barrier/hedge. *Carissa* is not used as much in South Florida as it used to be, and this is unfortunate since it has so many positive features. It is not particular as to soil, providing it does not become waterlogged, growing well on Miami-Dade's limestone, and is salt tolerant. Initially slow growing, once established the rate of growth increases. Although usually seen in the open, it will take moderate shade, however flowering and fruit production may not be as prolific. The plant is drought tolerant, though it will respond to supplemental water during hot dry weather. During the cool, dry days of winter, watering is not required.

A number of cultivars are available: 'Fancy' is upright with bright green leaves and profuse flowering, 'Boxwood Beauty' is more compact, with a variegated form,

'Boxwood Variegata' even more compact, with leaves edged cream, whilst 'Nana' is a compact spineless form. There are prostrate forms suitable for use as ground cover such as 'Green Carpet', 'Tomlinson', and the trailing 'Horizontalis' with small emerald green leaves and bright red fruit. Other *Carissa* species/cultivars are found in southern Africa, however they are not readily available in Miami-Dade. *Carissa bispinosa* (hedge thorn) is a spicier 8-10' shrub with larger leaves and smaller, more tubular, white flowers than *C. macrocarpa*.

Cassia afrofistula (**dwarf golden** or **Kenyan shower** – Fabaceae) Σλ This small evergreen tree/shrub from Kenya and Tanzania often develops multiple trunks. It produces upright panicles of bright yellow flowers with a long season, spring through summer and sometimes into fall. Apart from the attractive flowers, *C. afrofistula* is useful as a small shade tree that adapts well to dry soil and full sun.

Ceiba pentandra (**Kapok Tree** - Malvaceae) Σ Native to Old and New World tropics, including Africa, though true origin is probably Central to northern S. America. The family to which the kapok tree was assigned, the Bombacaceae, was recently absorbed by the Malvaceae. This tree functions as a pioneer species in tropical forests, and can grow to over 150'. Kapok trees sometimes develop large buttressed roots, and grow rapidly to 40-60' under South Florida conditions. The tree loses its leaves in winter and whilst bare, white to pink flowers with incurved petals appear at the branch tips. Palmate leaves with up to 8 lanceolate leaflets soon follow, with subsequent development of large leathery seed capsules filled with cream colored downy fibers (kapok). These fibers can be a nuisance when the seed capsules split. Adaptable to various soil conditions providing they are free draining, though slightly acid soils preferred. Best suited to large open sites in full sun.

Chlorophytum comosum (**Spider Plant** – Liliaceae) EO This familiar South African native is grown for the variegated strap-like leaves. Use as a ground cover or in hanging baskets with some shade, and water when the top of the soil becomes dry.

Clerodendrum spp. (**Bleeding heart** and **Blue clerodendrum** - Lamiaceae) SX A large group of plants; most native to Old World tropics. Two species from Africa are especially attractive: **bleeding heart**, *C. thomsoniae*, is found in tropical W. Africa, and grows as a sprawling shrub/vine with large deep green leaves, and showy clusters of flowers, each with red partially fused petals that contrast with the whitish/pink calyx. **Blue clerodendrum**, *C. ugandense*, from tropical E. Africa is a sprawling shrub with toothed, lighter green leaves. The blue flowers are most attractive and valued for their light airy appearance; petals partially fused, the upper four a light blue, with the lower a far more conspicuous violet blue. Some partial afternoon shade is beneficial for both plants, with *C. thomsonae* more tolerant of dry soil.

Colvillea racemosa (**Colvilles Glory** – Fabaceae) Σλ Native to Madagascar, Colvilles glory is an upright tree to 40 – 50', the lower trunk usually free of branches. Attractive feathery foliage, deciduous during winter; spectacular, pendant cone-shaped spikes of reddish orange flowers for 4-6 weeks in late summer – fall. Once established, the tree is tolerant of dry conditions.

Combretum grandiflorum (**Showy combretum** – Combretaceae) χς Of the many species of ornamental combretums found in Africa, *C. grandiflorum*, from Gambia, Ghana and Guinea is the most widely known. This is a vigorous, scandent, evergreen shrub, growing to 20-30' that requires a sturdy support. Flowers are small and bright red, and produced during fall into winter in large one-sided clusters that resemble an over-sized toothbrush. Grow in full sun to slight shade and do not allow the soil to dry out. The **flame creeper** (*C. microphyllum*), from Mozambique, is far less common but more tolerant of dry soils. Briefly deciduous during winter after which the plant is covered in crimson flower panicles. Both species should be heavily pruned after flowering.

Costus afer (**Spiral ginger** – Zingiberaceae) δς A group of gingers found in both new and old world tropics, with *C. afer* native to tropical W. Africa. They are named for the spiral arrangement of the fleshy leaves that grow out from the rather floppy stems. Flowers are grouped together in a showy terminal inflorescence. *C. afer* grows to about 6-7' (more in its native habitat) with fragrant pink to white flowers with a yellow stripe. Choose a site with bright light protected from direct sun, and prepare a 12" deep bed of rich organic soil. Plant rhizomes during spring with the eyes (new shoots) pointing up, and keep the soil moist but never wet, applying a slow release palm special fertilizer once shoots appear. During the winter months the plant will become semi-dormant and does not require as much water. *Costus lucanusianus* is a related species from Cameroon with white flowers edged in red with a yellow stripe – may be available under the name Sweet African. Some species such as *C. lucanusianus* can multiply rapidly and need to be regularly monitored in case they become invasive.

Crassula ovata (**Jade plant** – Crassulaceae) λΔ Most *Crassula* spp. are found in Southern Africa, with the jade plant being a 3' shrubby species that grows in open sunny areas adapted to infertile but free draining soil. The fleshy leaves are usually stalkless, round, and tinged red or a lighter green around the margin. There are cultivars exhibiting a variety of different leaf patterns from a coppery purple to variegated yellow and green. Clusters of small star shaped white flowers tinged pink are produced from fall to winter. For landscape use jade plant should in be full sun, preferably in a dry rock garden. *Crassula arborescens*, the **silver jade plant** is also available. It is similar in form to *C. ovata*, however the foliage is covered with a powdery bluish/gray coating. The principal problems for both of these crassulas are stem and root rots as well as infestation with mealybugs.

Crinum spp. (**Crinum lily** – Amaryllidaceae) ♂♂ These large bulbous plants are found in warm climates throughout the world, with many species native to E. and southern Africa. *Crinum zeylanicum*, often referred to as the milk and wine lily is native to east Africa and tropical Asia and has a flat-topped cluster of up to 13 white flowers, with a diffuse reddish stripe in the middle of each tepal, borne on a thick leafless stalk. *Crinum bulbispermum* from South Africa is more tolerant of cold, while *C. macowanii* also from South Africa loses its foliage during winter. Both species produce large white to pale pink trumpet-shaped flowers.

Crinums should be planted in full sun with some light afternoon shade during the hottest part of the day. Provide an organically enriched soil with moderately good drainage and plant each bulb 4-5" deep (the top of the neck even with the soil), about 3' apart. Although crinums can be planted throughout the year, fall to early spring are preferred. Once established crinums should not be disturbed, as this interferes with flowering. Although moderately drought tolerant, crinums benefit from an evenly moist soil. There are leaf spotting diseases and stem and bulb rots that are occasional problems, aggravated by excess moisture. Eastern lubber grasshoppers are attracted to the foliage and can cause chewing damage during late winter into spring

Cryptostegia grandiflora (**India rubber vine** – Apocynaceae) χ A vigorous twining vine from Madagascar (not India) sometimes misleadingly known as purple allamanda. The dark green leaves are thick and glossy; the violet to maroon flowers funnel-shaped with flared lips. Plant in a sunny area with moist soil, and train as a sprawling shrub or provide a support for climbing. In several areas of the world (e.g. Australia and Pacific islands) *C. grandiflora* has become invasive. *Cryptostegia madagascariensis* (**Madagascar rubber vine**) is similar in appearance, but with lighter colored more pink flowers. Both plants produce copious amounts of poisonous white latex.

Cyrtanthus mackenii (**Ifafa lily** – Amaryllidaceae) ♂ Found in damp coastal areas of South Africa, this amaryllis relative produces numerous slender tubular flowers with a sweet, fruity scent from summer to fall. The strap like leaves retained throughout the year in South Florida. Original species has ivory white flowers, but varieties with colors from yellow, salmon pink, apricot through red are available. *Cyrtanthus elatus* syn *purpureus* (**Scarborough lily**) flowers are bright red and larger, more like those of amaryllis, with a season from spring to summer. Both species should be grown in bright light, but no direct sun, using a moist free draining organic soil. The bulb should be positioned so that the tip is just below soil level. The soil can dry out a little, especially for *C. elatus* during winter months. Do not disturb once planted – flowers better when crowded. These are excellent plants for outdoor containers or planters.

Dais cotinifolia (**Pom-pom tree** – Thymeleaceae) Σλ A small, fast growing flowering tree from eastern South Africa that grows to 10-15' forming a neat

rounded crown of bluish green foliage. In early summer the tree is covered with fragrant star shaped pink flowers in terminal fluffy balls. Choose a well-drained site in full sun, applying mulch to the area around the tree after planting and watering until established. Mature trees are quite drought tolerant. Although grown in south Florida this is not a commonly available tree, and at present is usually seen in collections of flowering trees. For that reason there is not much local information available. A common garden and street tree in South Africa where the spectacular display of summer bloom often coincides with the Christmas season.

Delonix regia (**Royal Poinciana** – Fabaceae) Σλ This, Miami's most popular flowering tree, is native to Madagascar and can grow to about 40'. It should be pruned to encourage horizontal growth to accentuate the characteristic broad flat crown, a feature that greatly enhances the trees appearance, particularly when in bloom. Masses of flame red flowers are produced in late spring - early summer, followed by large woody pods. Leaves are compound and fern-like, and along with the pods can be messy especially in winter when the tree is at least partially deciduous. *D. regia* requires an open sunny site with free draining soil, and should be installed at a minimum of 25-30' from any building foundations, in ground pool or underground utilities. Once established this is a drought tolerant tree. *D. regia var. flavida* is seen less often and is a naturally occurring variety with golden yellow flowers^b. *Delonix elata*, a recent introduction to Miami-Dade, is native to arid areas of E. Africa, has creamy white to yellow flowers and is especially tolerant of poor soil and drought. *Delonix pumila* with creamy yellow flowers is a small pachycaulous tree (swollen trunk), growing no more than 8-12' but with a trunk diameter of at least 16". More often seen as a bonsai subject – in the landscape it should be grown in a dry rock garden.

Dietes spp. (**African iris, Wild iris** and **Yellow morea** – Iridaceae) Εδ Most of the plants in this genus originated in E. and South Africa. They are clumping plants with narrow flattened leaves in a fan-like display. *Dietes vegetea* (African iris) is most often seen, and has 3" wide flowers with an orange/brown blotch and blue shading. *Dietes grandiflora* (wild iris) also has white flowers, but with orange/mauve markings. Yellow morea (*Dietes bicolor*) has somewhat smaller, light yellow flowers with chocolate brown blotches. Choose a site in full sun, though partial shade is acceptable, and a free draining soil preferably enriched with some organic matter. *Dietes* can adapt to poor soil, and will withstand drought once established (especially *D. grandiflora*), however they respond well to regular watering especially when flowering. Individual flowers can be removed, however it is important not to remove the entire stem in order to ensure further flower production.

^b Not to be confused with the so-called yellow poinciana, *Peltophorum pterocarpum*.

Dombeya spp. (**Tropical Snowball** – Malvaceae) ☞ A genus of 225 species of small trees and shrubs, all indigenous to E. Africa and Madagascar, and formerly assigned to the Sterculiaceae. Dombeyas produce spherical clusters of flowers in white, pink, yellow or red, and are commonly referred to as tropical snowball or hydrangea tree. In some species, such as *D. burgesiae* (seen more in southern California landscapes), the blossoms have a pleasant, sweet vanilla-like fragrance. Dombeyas have simple soft textured often lobed leaves (some resemble a maple leaf) and are borne on a long stalk. *Dombeya walichi* was one of more commonly seen species seen in south Florida. However a series of open pollinated *Dombeya* hybrids developed by Dr. Paul K. Soderholm at the USDA in Miami are most frequently seen in Miami-Dade. These plants are more compact and less coarse than the parent plants, with more conspicuous blooms that are less hidden by foliage. The cultivar 'Seminole (deep pink) is most usually available - 'Rosemound' (medium pink), and 'Perrine' (reddish-pink) being rarely seen. All have blooms that can substitute for hydrangeas in the south Florida landscape.

Maximum flowering coincides with south Florida's dry season (November until March), though blooms can appear earlier in the fall. Spent blooms turn an unattractive brown (have been used in dried flower arrangements) and should be removed to prevent litter and to encourage further flowering. Dombeyas should be planted in full sun to slight shade, and are moderately drought tolerant once established. Unlike hydrangeas, flower color is not influenced by soil pH. During winter leaves can turn a reddish brown and drop as temperatures fall below 50°F.

Dracaena spp. (**Dracaena** - Ruscaceae) ○ Most species of this varied group of plants are native to tropical Africa. They range from low shrubs to tree-like forms, and are usually grown for their attractive foliage. In temperate climates they are very popular as houseplants. Leaves are smooth, oval - sword shaped, in shades of green or variegated silver, yellow or white, with some having red margins, and usually spirally arranged on a woody stem. Flower panicles are a greenish white and often fragrant at night. Grow the first group of plants listed below outdoors where there is some shade, preferably afternoon, and a free draining but moist soil enriched with organic material. Very sensitive to fluoride: avoid fertilizers containing superphosphate, and the frequent use of fluoridated water. Commencing with *D. marginata*, the subsequent group of plants is more tolerant of drought and can be grown outdoors in full sun

Fragrant Dracaena (*Dracaena fragrans*) This is an upright plant with corn-like foliage, the cultivar 'Massangeana' (leaves with a broad yellow stripe down the middle) commonly referred to as **corn plant** is the most often seen. The cv. 'Lindenii' has leaves with creamy white marginal stripes, and those of 'Victoriae' have a central silvery stripe with yellow margins.


Dracaena deremensis is similar in appearance to *D. fragrans*, and has given rise to two cultivars very popular as indoor foliage plants, 'Janet Craig' (erect plant with long green leaves with a corrugated edge) and 'Warneckii' (stiff, leather-like leaves,


variegated with two white stripes). *Dracaena surculosa*, **gold dust dracaena**, is a small woody shrub with slender erect to arching stems, bearing whorl-like arrangements of dark green leaves covered with many round yellow to white spots. There are several cultivars: 'Florida Beauty' has off-white blotches; 'Kelleri' has thicker leaves with ivory colored marbling and 'Juanita' a central yellow/gold stripe.

Dracaena marginata (Madagascar dragon tree) has narrow sword like leaves with a deep red margin, that are tightly arranged around erect woody stems. The cultivar 'Colorama' has central red and ivory bands, and 'tricolor' a single longitudinal yellow stripe down the middle of the leaf. In the landscape *D. marginata* can be expected to grow to about 10'.

For landscaping purposes the **reflexed dracaena**, *Dracaena reflexa*, is the showiest of this group of plants growing to 15' with erect branching stems. From the top of each stem spread recurved leaves of variable width. In the cultivar 'Song of India' the leaves have a bright yellow stripe, whereas in 'Song of Jamaica' the stripe is more of a beige color. There are tree-like species of which *Dracaena draco*, the **dragon tree** from the Canary Islands is the most familiar. The **tree dracaena**, *Dracaena arborea*, from the drier parts of W. Africa is more suited to the humidity of south Florida, and can grow up to 40', though it is usually much smaller. Situate the plant in full sun and provide perfect drainage, and good air circulation. This is a drought and salt tolerant plant.

Duvalia (Apocynaceae) Low growing succulents from E. Africa – see *Stapelia*) 

Ensete ventricosum (**Abyssinian Banana** – Musaceae)  A close relative of the edible banana, *E. ventricosum* is found growing on low mountain slopes in East and Central Africa. The plant is principally grown for its impressive foliage, which is clustered at the top of a stout trunk-like stem. Individual leaves can be more than 20' long and are a deep olive green with a thickened mid rib that is maroon on the underside. The inflorescence is 3-4' in length and composed of white flowers mostly hidden within a cylinder of reddish brown bracts. The 'Maurelii' cultivar has red tinged leaves, more noticeable at the margins. 'Montbeliardii' has narrower leaves with an almost black mid rib. This is a fast growing plant that requires full sun, an enriched moist soil, and regular applications of a high potash fertilizer. After several years the main plant flowers then dies, to be replaced by new pseudostems.

Erythrina lysistemon (**Coral Tree** – Fabaceae)  There are many species of coral tree in cultivation, the most familiar are from the Americas, including the Florida native *Erythrina herbacea*, and S.E. Asia. *Erythrina lysistemon* is native to the drier parts of South Africa, and grows to about 20-30'. In winter it is devoid of leaves for up to three months depending how mild it is, becoming covered in brilliant orange to red flowers during spring. The display is all the more spectacular if the weather is hot and dry. New foliage then emerges and consists of distinctive trifoliate leaves with prickly stems. The **cork tree** (*Erythrina latissima* – from S. Africa and

Mozambique) is similar but the bark is rougher and armed with formidable prickles. Both trees require full sun and very free draining soil.

Eucomis spp. (**Pineapple lilies** – Hyacinthaceae) δ These members of the lily family are native to South Africa and are grown for the stiff cylindrical spike of small, fragrant, star shaped flowers. Topped with a rosette of leaf-like bracts, the inflorescence resembles a pineapple. Individual flowers are green to white often flecked with maroon or purple, and appear in late summer. The glossy strap-like leaves make this quite an attractive foliage plant for much of the year. Foliage dies down during winter when the plant becomes dormant. Grow either in containers or in the ground, using an enriched free draining soil that remains moist during the growing season. Reduce watering during winter dormancy.

Eugenia coronata (n/a - Myrtaceae) $O\lambda$ The eugenias are a large group of mostly tropical trees and shrubs noted for their attractive foliage, and sometimes fragrant blossoms and/or edible fruit. Several are outstanding Florida native ornamentals (known as stoppers), whilst less often seen in Miami-Dade are African species. *E. coronata* is a 20' shrub/small tree found in W. Africa with leathery 3" leaves and fragrant small white flowers. This is a drought tolerant plant for use in full sun, and makes an excellent hedge. Other species are found in southern and eastern Africa, but are not as common in cultivation.

Euphorbia milii (**Crown of thorns** – Euphorbiaceae) $\lambda\Delta\zeta$ A plant with numerous twisted spiny stems, bearing a whorl of thick grayish green leaves and a terminal inflorescence having small insignificant flowers subtended by colorful red or yellow bracts. Crosses with the related *Euphorbia lophogona* have yielded the *E. x lomi* hybrids, having greatly enlarged and more showy bracts. When planting choose an area receiving at least 80% full sun, with gritty, free draining soil³.

Euphorbia trigona (**Cathedral cactus** – Euphorbiaceae) $\lambda\Delta$ One of many cactus-like euphorbs from semi-arid areas in eastern and southern Africa that are suitable for a dry rock garden. All have poisonous, irritant sap dictating a need for care when situating large euphorbias such as *E. trigona*. It grows to about 8' with erect prominently ribbed triangular stems, the margins of which bear rows of small round leaves and prominent spines. Some cultivars have red mottled stems and /or red leaves – color development is most pronounced in full sun. These are drought tolerant plants that thrive on poor soil and can be used as a substitute for true cacti in the south Florida landscape where there is excellent drainage.

³ For detailed information on *E. milii* and the recent *E.x lomi* hybrids see the publication 'Crown of thorns – *Euphorbia milii*', available from the Miami-Dade Extension Office, or download from: <http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/commorn/publications/crown-of-thorns-homeowner.PDF>

Euryops pectinatus (**Silver daisy bush** - Asteraceae) $\zeta\lambda$ See below under *Gamolepis chrysanthemoides*.

Ficus lyrata (**Fiddle leaf fig** – Moreaceae) γO A large leaved, spreading ficus tree from Central and W. Africa growing to about 40'. The leaves are coarse in texture, up to 18" in length and shaped like a fiddle and along with the fruit can be messy when they fall. As with most ficus trees the roots can be invasive, however *F. lyrata* does not develop the buttressed trunk and aerial roots present on many other *Ficus* spp.

Ficus natalensis ssp. *leprieuri* syn. *Ficus triangularis* (**Triangle fig** – Moreaceae) γ Found in an area that stretches from Zambia through central Africa as far west as Senegal, this fig is grown as a small evergreen tree, though under suitable conditions in its native setting can become a large tree. The leaves are approximately triangular in shape, no more than 4" long. The cultivar 'Variegata' has variegated leaves, and 'Westland' upright growth with light green leaves, becoming darker as they mature.

Fillicium decipens (**Fern leaf tree** – Sapindaceae) γO An increasingly popular small shade tree that is believed to be native to E. Africa, but is now more widely grown in India. The tree is named for the attractive compound leaves that resemble those of a fern. Each leaf consists of a flattened rachis with up to 16 lustrous dark green leaflets, 2-6" long. The creamy white flowers are insignificant. The tree is somewhat slow growing to about 25' (larger under optimum conditions), and makes an excellent shade tree for smaller yards with minimal problems from litter. In Hawaii fruit is messy; however so far under Florida conditions fruit set does not seem to occur. Choose a sunny site with free draining soil, watering well until established. Mature trees exhibit moderate drought tolerance.

Fockeae edulis (**Kambroo** – Apocynaceae) $\lambda\chi\Delta$ Found in arid parts of E. and S. Africa, plants of this genus are all caudiciform (greatly swollen stem) succulents with thin twisting usually vine-like stems bearing leathery leaves. The star shaped flowers have thin greenish petals and are fragrant. Grown mainly for the unusually swollen warty stem, which should be kept shaded (in the wild most of it is underground), otherwise the plant should be in full sun. Plant in a gritty soil mix and provide perfect drainage, keeping the plant on the dry side during winter months when it is most likely to rot. Install a small trellis or stakes to support the twining stems. More often grown in containers by hobbyists as a curiosity (a favorite with those who collect 'fat' plants), rather than in the landscape. Usually not as prone to rot as other caudiciforms so should be amenable to use in a dry rock garden.

Gamolepis chrysanthemoides (**African daisy bush** – Asteraceae) ζ A small flowering shrub from South Africa, often used as a ground cover for its bright year round daisy-

like flowers and lacy evergreen foliage. Prune regularly since growth can become straggly with age. Requires full sun and although somewhat drought tolerant, flowering is more prolific if the soil is kept moist. A related species from South Africa, *Euryops pectinatus* (**silver leaf daisy**) is more drought tolerant and more compact, but is better adapted to a Mediterranean type climate. For both plants a free draining soil is essential, and for *E. pectinatus* try using a raised bed in a dry garden (see above).

Gardenia spp. (Rubiaceae, go back to the menu and select 'Ornamentals: Trees shrubs and vines')

Gloriosa superba (**Glory lily** – Colchicaceae) $\chi\delta$ *Gloriosa* is now regarded as a genus having a single species of variable form composed of several named cultivars. The plant is indigenous to southern Africa, usually growing in areas of open woodland where there is moist soil. It grows from a cylindrical underground tuber producing thin twining stems that climb by means of leaf tendrils. The principal attribute of *G. superba* is the unusually shaped 4" brilliant red to purple flower, with its wavy margined tepals and prominent stamens. The plant requires support, or it can be planted so that the stems climb over a neighboring shrub. Flowering, which requires full sun exposure, occurs during summer months, with the plant dying down during the winter. The tubers should be planted 3-4" deep in a rich but free draining soil during late spring. *Gloriosa* has brittle roots and transplants poorly; the tubers can be lifted when the plant is dormant during late winter for storage, though this should not be required in Miami-Dade. All parts of the glory lily contain colchicines and are extremely poisonous, particularly the tubers.

Grewia occidentalis (**Star lavender** – Malvaceae) ζ A sprawling evergreen shrub to about 8' from southern Africa, found in various habitats from low mountain woodland to coastal dunes. Although not particular, *G. occidentalis* responds favorably to soil enriched with some organic material, and requires full sun or light shade and a free draining site. The leaves are deep green, shiny and somewhat hairy with small rounded marginal teeth. The flowers are produced from leaf axils and are star shaped, about 1" across, with lavender petals with a prominent boss of deep yellow stamens. Star lavender is most colorful from spring to mid summer, and can be pruned fall to late winter as required. The lack of invasive roots makes it an excellent choice as an informal foundation plant for large buildings. In addition, its growth habit also allows for espaliering next to a sunny wall. The plant family Tiliaceae, to which *G. occidentalis* belonged, was recently absorbed by the Malvaceae.

Haemanthus coccineus (**Cape tulip** – Amaryllidaceae) $\Delta\delta$ *Haemanthus* spp. are South African natives sometimes collectively referred to as blood lilies and closely related to the more familiar blood lily *Scadoxus multiflorus* (see below). *H. coccineus* should be grown in a light to partially shaded site in perfectly free

draining soil – incorporate sharp sand, Perlite and some organic matter. Bulbs should be planted in late winter with the neck just above the soil line. The soil should be barely moist until there are signs of growth at which time watering can be increased. Thick leafless dark red stems appear in summer bearing a dense head of small red flowers with prominent yellow stamens, loosely cupped by a ring of large scarlet bracts. Two to three large, prostrate to slightly erect, leaves appear immediately after flowering. Once planted *Haemanthus* should not be disturbed, the offsets produced eventually forming a clump. This is an excellent plant for container growing, and will flower more profusely as it becomes increasingly crowded.

Harpephyllum caffrum (**Wild plum** – Anacardiaceae) $\lambda\gamma$ A small tree from southern Africa that is related to the cashew and has similar requirements when cultivated. Apart from being an attractive ornamental shade tree, *H. caffrum* also produces small, edible, dark red fruit though this requires both male and female trees. This is an evergreen tree forming a wide dome- like canopy with compound leaves composed of 2-3” glossy, sickle shaped leaflets. The blossoms are a greenish creamy white and are produced in spring. Choose a site in full sun with a free draining soil. Falling fruit can be messy (plant only male trees if this could be a problem), and the wood is brittle and liable to break in a windstorm.

Hibiscus schizopetalus (**Fringed hibiscus** – Malvaceae) ζ This 8-10’ cascading shrub from E. Africa is related to the more common Chinese hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*), and is the best known of several other ornamental *Hibiscus* spp. native to Africa. *H. schizopetalus* has an unusual pendant flower with curved, deeply lobed (fringed) petals that are red to pink. The elongated staminal column, which protrudes from the center of the flower, is longer than the width of the petals, and bears prominent yellow anthers. The plant requires full sun and enriched soil, but is less demanding than the Chinese hibiscus as to water and nutritional requirements. Several hybrids between the fringed and Chinese hibiscus have been developed.

Hoodia spp. (Apocynaceae) $\lambda\Delta$ See Stapelia

Huernia spp. (**Dragon flowers** – Apocynaceae) Δ See Stapelia

Hypoestes aristata (**Ribbon bush** – Acanthaceae) $\zeta\lambda$ A low growing evergreen shrub found in semi shaded woodland/scrub of South Africa. Produces clusters of attractive lilac, pink or white flowers, with the ‘Purple Haze’ variety having intense purple flowers. Choose a site that offers dappled shade or at least protection from intense afternoon sun, and a free draining soil. Once established, ribbon bush is quite drought tolerant and requires little attention apart from pruning as required, and application of a slow release fertilizer once or twice a year.

The related **polka dot plant (OE)** from Madagascar, *Hypoestes phyllostachya*, is grown mainly as an indoor foliage plant (leaves have pink spots) but can be used outdoors as a ground cover/bedding plant. It requires more shade, no direct sun but bright light, and some organic material can be worked into the planting bed to produce a consistently moist but not wet soil. The plant takes hard pruning and should be kept to about 18 – 24” – it has a tendency to become leggy especially if the light is too subdued. Too much shade will also inhibit development of full leaf coloration. There are more compact varieties available with foliage having deep red, rosy red or white spots.

Kalanchoe spp. (Common name depends on species – Crassulaceae) λOς A group of semi-succulent plants found principally in Madagascar as well as east and southern Africa. There are very many species and cultivars grown for interesting foliage and/or the very showy flower heads. The stems are fleshy, often more woody near the base and spreading. Leaves are also fleshy, round to elongated with crenate margins, and in various shades of green often with purple to red markings. The leaves of some of the larger species, which are mainly grown for their foliage, are often covered with dense fine hairs (tomentose) or have a blue to gray dusty appearance. Two of the larger arborescent species are *Kalanchoe beharensis* (to 18’) and *Kalanchoe hildbrandtii* (to 15’). There are also a few climbing species (e.g. *Kalanchoe beauverdii*) as well as those growing as epiphytes (*Kalanchoe uniflora*). Most familiar to south Florida landscapes are the low growing flowering types, most of which are hybrids of the scarlet flowering *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* and related species. Flowers are tubular and appear in winter/spring as tightly packed terminal clusters. The many varieties available have flowers in shades of yellow, red, pink and orange as well as white. These are widely used as bedding plants in South Florida, and should be planted in a free draining soil in full sun. Although often treated as annuals, these are perennial plants and can be left in the landscape. They are however susceptible to crown rots during the summer rainy season if the soil is not sufficiently free draining. This is another plant that is well adapted to a dry rock garden. A word of caution: the related bryophyllums can be weedy, especially those that produce plantlets on the leaf margins. One species, *Bryophyllum pinnata* is on Miami-Dade County’s list of controlled plants.

Khaya nyasica (**African mahogany** – Meliaceae) γλ A large tree, growing to over 100’, found in E. and central Africa that is of most importance as a source of high-grade timber. It does however make a fast growing shade tree. The tree develops a very straight trunk with branches developing high and drooping halfway down the tree. It is larger, having more upright less spreading growth than Florida’s native mahogany, *Sweitenia mahagoni*. African mahogany has a flared trunk base and surface roots that can become a landscaping problem – an imposing tree best used for public spaces and very large properties. The handsome leaves are compound made up of thick glossy green leaflets. The small flowers are sweet smelling but an insignificant visual feature. Adapted to areas with distinct wet and dry seasons,

eventually developing good drought tolerance once established. Provide a free draining soil and full sun. There are other related species from other parts of Africa – all have been over exploited as sources of timber so that few natural stands survive.

Kigelia africana (**Sausage tree** – Bignoniaceae) Σ An E. African tree usually grown for the novelty of the large, woody, sausage shaped fruits hanging from long stalks for much of the year. The fruit can be up to 2-3' in length and weigh up to 24lbs and is suspended by a stalk up to 3' long. *K. africana* also makes a good shade tree, and from spring to summer produces long pendant sprays of 3" bell-shaped, purplish red flowers, prominently veined yellow. Although showy the flowers have an unpleasant smell. The tree requires full sun and plenty of space; it should be positioned away from sidewalks and buildings to prevent damage from invasive roots. Provide a slow release fertilizer twice a year and supplemental water during periods of drought. In order to ensure production of fruit the flowers should be hand pollinated (believed to be pollinated by bats in the wild).

Kleinia fulgens syn. *Senecio fulgens* (**Scarlet Kleinia** – Asteraceae) λζΔ *Kleinia* spp. are drought tolerant, succulent, sometimes woody plants found principally in tropical and southern Africa, and often grown for their attractive form and foliage. Unless provided with perfect drainage they are liable to rot. Not widely grown in south Florida, but try growing in full sun using a gritty soil (a dry rock garden for example).

Leea guineensis (n/a – Leeaceae) ζO *L. guineensis* is a large upright shrub native to humid areas of W. Africa, growing to about 15' and possessing both attractive foliage as well as colorful flowers and fruits. From a distance the foliage appears holly like; leaves are compound, individual leaflets being green, shiny with a pronounced apical tip. Some forms have purple tinged leaves, especially on the lower surfaces. Many small flowers with curved red petals produced in flat flower heads (cymes), followed by dark red ½" berries. Grow in a partially shaded area (protect from afternoon sun) with moist enriched soil. Very sensitive to cold weather, which causes total leaf loss. A related species native to Burma, **West Indian holly** (*Leea coccinea*), is more commonly available in south Florida.

Markhamia lutea (**Markhamia** – Bignoniaceae) Σλ A 25-30' deciduous flowering tree found from Ghana to central Africa with four-sided branches and compound leaves, each leaflet oblong, up to 3 x 8'. *Markhamia* forms an attractively shaped rather narrow rounded crown and so is ideal where only limited shade is desirable. The flowers are broadly tubular, yellow (some forms have a red lined throat) with petals fused at the base becoming flared and spoon shaped. Flowering occurs throughout spring to summer. Flowering occurs from spring well into summer but it can take up to 10 years for seed grown trees to flower. The tree requires full sun, but is not particular as to soil providing it is never waterlogged – once established it

is drought tolerant. The related *M. stipulata* var. *pierrii* has yellow flowers with maroon stripes in the throat.

Mimusops caffra (**Coastal Red Milkwood** – Sapotaceae) ΧΥ A small to medium size tree, at most 35' with a stout grey trunk, small, obovate leathery leaves, small white flowers and deep red to brown edible fruit. This is found as a pioneer species along the sand dunes of South Africa's east coast, where it is noted as exhibiting excellent wind tolerance. A limited number of South Florida nurseries currently offer this tree.

Mitriostigma axillare (**Small false loquat** – Rubiaceae) Ϛ The common name for this shrub (which over time can grow into a small tree) is in use in South Africa, but in the US this plant is usually referred to as mitriostigma. The plant is closely related to the gardenia and requires similar growing conditions, though with less direct exposure to sun. A slow growing compact shrub, it is an increasingly popular indoor plant being a reliable bloomer for much of the year, suited to lower light conditions than gardenia. Of particular note is the exquisite fragrance of the flowers, not as heavy as gardenia, to some reminiscent of frangipani. Outdoors choose a site out of the direct sun, shaded but with bright light (north side of building is ideal). Work some organic matter into the soil so that it retains moisture but will not become waterlogged. Apply an acidifying fertilizer, such as used for ixora and gardenia every 2-3 months.

Moringa ovalifolia (**African moringa** – Moringaceae) λΣΔ This is a deciduous, semi-succulent tree usually found on bare rocky soil in S.W. Africa, and is referred to as the ghost tree because of its smooth, gray almost white bark. Little grown as a landscape item in the US, seed is sometimes available. Large compound leaves composed of many small light green leaflets. The trees are of ornamental interest because of their unusual squat stature, and hanging racemes of fragrant white flowers. The fruit consists of foot long, flat pod-like seed capsules. The tree must have full sun and a gritty, sandy soil – excellent for a dry rock garden. *Moringa hildebrandtii* from Madagascar is similar but can grow to more than 70' in the wild. It is fast growing and has been grown in frost free areas of extreme southern California. A related more familiar species, the horseradish tree (*Moringa oleifera*), is native to northern India but is now commonly grown throughout Africa both for economic (food/fuel/oil) and ornamental purposes.

Mussaenda erythrophylla (**Ashanti blood** - Rubiaceae) ϚΧ A rambling almost vine-like shrub from Ghana, which in some older references is also called red flag. Growing to more than 20', it is usually seen in Miami-Dade at less than half this size. The leaves are prominently veined, light to medium green (in Miami-Dade) to about 6" in length. Panicles of small pale yellow to white, five-petalled flowers are produced during the summer, each with one sepal (an outer leaf like part of the flower) greatly enlarged and blood red. The contrast between the deep red sepals and white flowers makes this an extremely showy ornamental shrub. Flowering

ceases with the onset of cooler, drier, conditions of winter. In Miami-Dade temperatures below 40°F will cause leaf drop, with more substantial damage as temperatures approach freezing. Any resulting dead wood should be removed in late winter, after which the shrub will put out new growth with warming temperatures. Choose a position sheltered from cold winter winds, with some shade from hot summer afternoon sun. The soil should be enriched with organic material and kept moist. More common in south Florida landscapes are the several cultivars of *M. erythrophylla* that have come from S.E. Asia, especially 'Queen Sirikit' with wavy deep pink to ivory sepals. These cultivars are somewhat less cold tolerant than the species⁴.

Napoleana imperialis (**Napoleons hat** – Lecythidaceae) Σ Native to W. and central Africa, *Napoleona* spp. are an interesting group of trees and shrubs found in the understory of tropical rainforests. *Napoleana imperialis* is esteemed for the bizarre, vividly colored, saucer shaped flowers that grow from leaf axils, or directly from trunk and stem. It is a slow growing, open, multi-stemmed 20' tree that requires humid conditions, enriched moist acidic soil and partial shade. Not common in landscapes, they have mostly been grown as greenhouse specimens by collectors. The related *Barringtonia* (see above), can be successfully grown in Miami-Dade, but *Napoleana* has more exacting requirements as to soil and temperature. .

Newbouldia laevis (**Boundary tree** – Bignoniaceae) Σ A 30' evergreen tree found in dry forests of W. Africa, of note because of its extremely straight, erect trunk, and attractive habit. Branches can be terete to triangular in cross section, and bear compound leaves, each leaflet about 6-10" long and half as wide. The lightly scented flowers are borne at the branch tips and are pale pink to purple with lobed petals. The tree requires full sun, and moderately moist soil for best growth, though it is tolerant of drought once established. This is a fast growing tree and large cuttings are planted in the ground to form a tall screen/boundary marker.

Nuxia floribunda (**Kite tree** – Loganiaceae) Σ *Nuxia* spp. are closely related to buddlejias (butterfly bushes) and are found in tropical and southern Africa. *N. floribunda* is of variable size and form, but is usually grown as a small tree and can be expected not to exceed 20-25' in south Florida. An attractive landscape item with graceful branches, long slender leaves, and small white fragrant flowers arranged in dense terminal clusters. *Nuxia floribunda* is usually evergreen, and is not drought tolerant, preferring deep soils that remain moist throughout the year. The tree can be grown in full sun or dappled shade, with growth being highly dependent on availability of water. Although there are a few trees planted in south Florida local experience is limited. Mulching is recommended to retain soil moisture.


⁴ For further information request the publication 'Musseandas for south Florida Landscapes' from the Miami-Dade County Extension Office.

Ochna serrulata (**Mickey mouse shrub** – Ochnaceae) ζ An evergreen shrub/small tree from South Africa growing to about 6', with light brown branches bearing small narrow leaves having numerous parallel veins and finely saw-edged margins. Yellow flowers with five free petals, and prominent yellow stamens are borne in clusters throughout the year, but mainly during spring to summer in Miami-Dade. The black pea- like fruit's resemblance to ears, together with the persistent red calyx, have been likened to the face of a well- known cartoon mouse. *O. serrulata* should be planted in full sun to partial afternoon shade in a light organically enriched soil and watered when the soil begins to dry out. *Ochna kirkii* is a closely related species found in more tropical parts of Africa, differing from *O. serrulata* in having leaf margins with fine bristles rather than serrated. This plant has become invasive in parts of Australia.


Oncoba spinosa (**Fried egg tree** – Flacourtiaceae) Σλ A small, shrubby tree found in sub-Saharan Africa, growing to 20-25' and armed with very sharp 2" spines. The tree bears alternately arranged 2-3" deep green leaves with serrated margins, but during the coldest part of the winter the tree will drop leaves. After rainy weather 2", white flowers with a prominent button of yellow stamens appear, their supposed resemblance to a fried egg giving rise to one of the tree's common names. Flowers are short lived, but have a pleasant melon like fragrance. The 2-2½" fruit is smooth, round, and dark brown with a hard shell and is edible though not at all palatable. The dried fruits rattle when shaken (seeds) and this the reason they are worn around the ankles and wrists by dancers – they also find use as toys for children. The tree should receive full sun, but is not particular as to soil adapting well to the limestone rock of south Miami-Dade. Encourage a central leader (main trunk) in order to develop a tree – like form; otherwise there is a tendency to develop multiple trunks. Allowed to develop as a large shrub and regularly pruned, it is sometimes used as a tall impenetrable hedge. Once established this is an extremely tough, drought tolerant plant, and apart from pruning (when not in active growth) requires little care. Root suckers can be a problem (they can form a thicket if not promptly removed), and often arise from damaged surface roots.

Pachypodium lamerei (**Madagascar palm** – Apocynaceae) λΔζ The pachypodiums are deciduous plants found in arid areas of Madagascar, southern Angola, Namibia and South Africa. *Pachypodium lamerii* is not as the common name suggests a palm, but a close relative of the desert rose (see above). A mature specimen is tree-like, having a single 15-18' swollen trunk (often cigar shaped) with a smooth leathery surface that is covered in numerous spines. The glossy dark green leaves are long, slender and spirally arranged and found only at the stem tips, and are lost during cool dry winter weather. Branching occurs immediately after flowering, and is often limited in cultivated specimens. It can take up to 10 years before flowers are first produced. The fragrant, white flowers are tubular with a flared mouth and yellow center, and resemble those of a frangipani.

Rather than the swollen columnar trunk of *P. lamerii*, some pachypodiums such as *P. densiflorum* have a broad squat trunk (caudex), with a width similar to their height, from which arise a few thin spiny stems. While most pachypodiums have white to yellow flowers, those of *P. baroni* are deep red. Pachypodiums require a porous free draining soil (use coarse sand and fine grit and no more than 20 - 30% sphagnum peat or coir), and are excellent subjects for a dry rock garden. Choose a site in full sun that does not flood, and water only during prolonged periods of hot dry weather with an application of slow release fertilizer once a year in late spring. With the onset of cooler dry weather in late fall/winter, withhold water – this is especially important once the plant loses all of its leaves.

Pandanus utilis (**Common Screw pine** – Pandanaceae)  Screw pines, which are in no way related to true pines, are found in various parts of the Old World tropics where they usually grow in coastal areas. These plants are easily recognized from the terminal whorls of large strap-like usually spiny leaves, the conspicuous stilt roots, and large woody, often colorful fruit. *P. utilis*, native to Madagascar, is the most readily available species in cultivation in south Florida. It grows to about 25', though in its natural range it is capable of reaching 60'. Screw pines were quite popular in local landscapes, however more recently they are not seen as often. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants and are small, cream to white borne on fleshy spikes. Male flowers are scented, whilst female plants produce large, attractive, somewhat cone-like woody fruits. The fruit is an aggregate of many yellow to orange drupes, and bears a passing resemblance to a pineapple. Each drupe contains a small amount of edible pulp. Screw pines should be grown in full sun to light shade, and because of their salt tolerance are a good choice for areas adjacent to the ocean – though not directly on the beach. A free draining soil is ideal, and though drought tolerant they respond to supplemental water and regular applications of a complete palm fertilizer. Screw pines have few problems: excessively wet foliage can develop leaf spots and root and crown rots are a problem where there is poor drainage. They are also the only plants apart from palms known to be susceptible to lethal yellowing disease.

Peltophorum africanum (**African wattle** – Fabaceae)  A small to medium size, evergreen, flowering tree from South Africa with a spreading rather untidy growth habit. The leaves are doubly compound, covered in fine hairs giving them a silvery gray appearance. Flowers are produced in summer in erect yellow spikes, followed by 4" brown pods. This tree is adapted to full sun and dry soil conditions. It is not as widely grown as *Peltophorum pterocarpum* (sometimes referred to as the yellow poinciana) from S.E. Asia. *Peltophorum* spp. in cultivation are weak wooded and have a tendency to develop shallow roots.

Plumbago auriculata (**Cape leadwort** – Plumbaginaceae)  This South African native is widely planted in warm climates, including South Florida and has naturalized in parts of Southern Europe. It is admired for the unique contribution


the profusion of sky blue flowers can make as a soothing contrast to the more vibrant colors of many other tropical landscape plants. *Plumbago* forms a small, scrambling, vine-like shrub with long arching stems, bearing terminal cymes of blue flowers on new growth. Choose a site in full sun with free draining soil that provides good air circulation. Moderately drought tolerant, so water during extended dry periods. Cape leadwort is often grown in beds as a small informal hedge or as a ground cover. Prune back hard during late winter to prevent the shrub from becoming straggly, after which pruning can be restricted to removing stems with spent flowers. The cv. 'Royal Cape' has a deeper blue streak down each petal. A white flowering cultivar 'Alba' is also available and is especially effective when used in a shrub border with the blue cultivars.


Podocarpus henkelii (**Henkel's yellow-wood** – Podocarpaceae) γ *Podocarpus* spp. is a widely distributed genus of cone bearing trees/shrubs, with several cultivated species being native to east and southern Africa. Though not as common as other species grown in South Florida, *P. henkelii* forms an attractive medium size pyramidal tree. Branches are pendant with glossy long pointed leaves, spirally arranged near stem tips. The top layer of bark peels to reveal reddish brown patches underneath. When planting choose a sheltered site with partial to full sun and water frequently until established. Mature trees are wind resistant and moderately drought tolerant. For *Podocarpus gracilior* (weeping podocarpus) see *Afrocarpus gracilior*.


Podranea ricasoliana (**Pink trumpet vine** – Bignoniaceae) χλ A vigorous woody vine from South Africa, though some authorities theorize that it originated elsewhere and may have been introduced by very early slave traders. The plant will rapidly grow to 30' if not pruned (reported to be invasive in parts of Australia), but is normally kept to 12-15'. Attractive arching stems with compound leaves composed of deep green glossy leaflets, and terminal foxglove-like spikes of fragrant, light pink to lilac flowers. Grow in full sun using a fertile free draining soil and provide a sturdy support – beware, the vine can spread rapidly from stems that touch the ground since they readily take root on contact with soil. Prune back severely during winter, before new growth appears, to keep the plant within bounds and improve flowering. *Podranea brycei* (**Zimbabwe climber**) is almost identical in appearance, but is not as common in cultivation. *Pandorea jasminoides* (Bower plant – Bignoniaceae) from Australia is a similar closely related vine, and though not as drought tolerant as *P. ricasoliana*, is often preferred since it is less invasive.

Polygala myrtifolia (**Cape Milkwort** – Polygalaceae) λς Usually seen as a 3-5' shrub (can grow as a 10' tree), cape milkwort is found growing on dunes, rocky hillsides to scrub and dry grassland in an area of South Africa stretching from the Western Cape to Swaziland. The shrub is evergreen, the leaves oval and somewhat narrow (2x½"), bright green to grayish green. Flowering occurs throughout the year and is most profuse during spring and into summer when flower clusters form at

stem tips. Each flower has petals colored mauve to violet or purple, with dark veins. This is a pioneer plant in its native range and is able to grow on poor dry soil. The var. *Chapman Field* has been developed by Dr Alan Meerow at the Miami ARS Chapman Field Research Station as a showy low maintenance shrub for use in subtropical landscapes. This variety is ready for release and is especially suited for open dry sites and coastal properties. During extensive trials var. *Chapman Field* has never set seed eliminating the risk of it becoming invasive. New plants can be easily propagated from tip cuttings.

Portulacaria afra (**Elephant bush** – Portulacaceae)  A small succulent tree/shrub found in dry rocky areas of eastern South Africa. The horizontal much-branched red stems contrast well with the small round fleshy leaves. These are opposite and stalkless, individual leaves being 1/2", glossy, round and jade-colored (not to be confused with *Crassula ovata*, the jade plant – see above. In its native habitat *P. afra* is smothered with small, deep pink, star shaped flowers in late winter, however in cultivation flowering is insignificant. There are a number of cultivars with variegated foliage. Choose a site in full sun with perfectly free draining soil (stem rots are the main problem in south Florida). A highly drought tolerant, slow growing plant, that is best suited for a dry garden in South Florida. In its native range, *P. afra* is an important food source for browsing elephants.

Pterocarpus angolensis (**Bloodwood tree** – Fabaceae)  A large shade tree with a broad attractive canopy found naturally in dry scrub and savanna woodland of E. Africa. The tree bark is longitudinally fissured and oozes a blood red sticky sap when injured. The leaves are compound made up of 5-9 three- inch leaflets, and the inflorescence an 8" panicle composed of many orange-yellow fragrant flowers. Flowering lasts for only 3-4 weeks, and is followed by an unusual, large (up to 4" in diameter) cylindrical winged pod. In the tree's native habitat this winged pod is dispersed by attaching to animal fur, or is driven across open ground by gusts of wind. Choose a site with rapidly draining soil and full sun exposure- the tree is well adapted to alkaline soils. This is a large spreading tree that is not suitable for small home lots. Apart from its use as a source of light shade, *P. angolensis* is an extremely important timber tree in southern Africa, and is under threat in some areas. Planted successfully in Hawaii, but use limited due to difficulties in germinating seed. No information could be found on its' use in South Florida, however it is suited to hot wet summers and warm dry winters. The S. American swamp bloodwood, *Pterocarpus officinalis* is occasionally offered in a few south Florida nurseries.

Pycnostachys dawei (n/a Labiatea)  A rapidly growing herbaceous perennial from Uganda, which grows to a height of about 5'. The lance shaped leaves are up to 4" long, soft, with slightly serrated margins. Grown for the dense spike of cobalt blue flowers produced throughout the summer. Plant in organically enriched, moist, but free draining soil, choosing a site protected from full afternoon sun. This is not a

drought tolerant plant and it will wilt under intense sun. Too little information to predict how reliable this plant will be in Miami-Dade, however it is worth trying for the striking brilliant blue inflorescence.

Rauvolfia caffra (**Quinine tree** – Apocynaceae) **OΣ** A medium size, fast growing, evergreen tree from S.E. Africa. With adequate water the tree will grow to 40-50' in its native range. The foliage is very attractive with leaves arranged in whorls of five at each node along the stem. Small, white, pleasantly fragrant flowers are produced in a flat-topped inflorescence during the rainy months of the year. The tree should receive some limited shade after planting but full sun as it matures. A fertile moisture retentive soil is required for optimal growth with supplemental water being provided during times of drought. Exercise care in the placement of this tree since various parts are poisonous. Quite common as a shade tree in South African gardens, but although planted in South Florida it is a rarity. This is a soft wooded tree that would not be expected to withstand windstorms without damage.

Ravanella madagascariensis (**Traveler's tree** – Strelitziaceae) **O** A plant genus formerly classified as part of the banana family and containing only this single species, traveler's tree is native to Madagascar. It is often erroneously referred to as a palm and forms a large tree-like herbaceous plant growing up to 50' in native rainforest, but only half that size under South Florida conditions. From a single stout stem emerges a fan shaped double row of overlapping banana like leaves, up to 10' in length, half of which is the petiole. Wind action usually causes the foliage to split along leaf veins into apparent leaflets resulting in a superficial resemblance to a palm frond. Yellow to white flowers are produced at any time within large boat shaped bracts. The plant derives its common name from the water that collects in these bracts and the sheaths at the leaf bases – an emergency source of drinking water. Traveler's tree requires full sun and a site with free draining, organically enriched soil. After planting, spread a layer of mulch over the root zone, and once established apply a high potassium fertilizer such as a palm special 3-4x per year. Provide supplemental water during periods of hot dry weather.

Rothmannia spp. (**Cape gardenia** – Rubiaceae) **Σ** A group of shrubs and small trees from South Africa, closely related to gardenias. They are grown for their large, fragrant, tubular flowers. Candlewood or cape gardenia (*R. capensis*) can grow to 30' (but usually much less in cultivation) with dark green shiny leaves and fragrant cream to yellow flowers. September bells (*R. globosa*) is not as large and can also be grown as a shrub, with leaves having a prominent yellow to maroon lateral veins and midrib. The flowers are smaller and more globular than *R. capensis*, white with a pinkish tinge, and fragrant. This is a fairly fast growing species. Choose a site with some partial shade, where the soil is preferably neutral to acid, free draining, and enriched with plenty of organic matter. Limited use in Miami – Dade, but like gardenias expect nutritional problems due the high pH and calcium content of local

soil. *Rothmannia* is not widely available, and has sometimes offered under the name 'Star of Africa' in a few local nurseries.

Ruttya fruiticosa (**Jammy mouth** – Acanthaceae) ☿ A 10-12' rambling evergreen shrub native to E. Africa and closely related to the more widely planted barlerias (see above). *Ruttya fruiticosa* has long flexible stems and can be trained as a climbing plant, or is sometimes cut low and allowed to sprawl over the surrounding ground. The small leaves are glossy and crinkled with prominent veins, but it is the unusual flowers that are most notable. The inflorescence takes the form of a short cone shaped spike produced during the summer months. Individual flowers consist of orange/red petals fused into an erect upper lip and a lower incurved lip with a dark brown blotch in the center. In some instances the flowers are yellow, with the variety 'Scholeseii' being bright yellow with glossy almost black spots. When planting choose an area with free draining soil in full sun some light afternoon shade.

Sarcocephalus latifolius syn. *Nauclea esculentus* (**African quinine, African peach** – Rubiaceae) Σ There are only two species of *Sarcocephalus*, both of which are trees native to tropical Africa that were formerly included in the genus *Nauclea*. *Sarcocephalus latifolius* grows to about 30' with drooping branches and cylindrical to somewhat angular stems. The leaves are bright green, large, thick, ovate to elliptic with prominent veins, the mid rib/larger veins tinged red. The tree is deciduous with leaves falling during winter. The unusual inflorescence, resembles a 2" pincushion, spherical made up of many densely packed, fragrant, thin, white/pale yellow, tubular flowers. After flowering in summer red to pink skinned knobby red fruits develops during fall. These contain many seeds in an edible watery flesh with an apple like flavor (see under Rubiaceae in the Appendix to the section on vegetable and fruit trees). Not particular as to soil, though fastest growth on moist but free draining soil in full sun and only limited shade. Once established this is a drought tolerant tree. *Sarcocephalus latifolius* is not widely available in Miami-Dade, however trees have been successfully grown.

Scadoxus multiflorus (**Blood lily**⁵ – Amaryllidaceae) ♂ Native to southern and E. Africa, this bulbous perennial is widely admired for the large, red spherical inflorescence. The subspecies *katherinae* is most common in cultivation, and during summer produces an inflorescence 4-6" in diameter composed of as many as 200 small scarlet flowers with conspicuous stamens. Each plant produces only a single flower head, which is borne on a sturdy stem of at least 12-18" in height. The foliage consists of large, broad, lance shaped leaves with wavy margins, arranged spirally around a pseudostem, up to nine appearing during a season. Two other sub-species are less commonly seen, ssp. *multiflorus* and ssp. *longitubus* from W. Africa, both differing from ssp. *katherinae* in possessing larger individual

⁵ For further information request a copy of the publication 'Blood-lily: A potential nursery crop for south Florida' from the Miami-Dade County Extension Office.

flowers. The **paintbrush lily**, *Scadoxus puniceus*, is not cultivated as often but produces a striking cone shaped flower head, composed of up to 100 tiny scarlet to yellow flowers. During winter the plant becomes dormant, with the foliage dying down with new leaves appearing in the spring. *Scadoxus* spp. should be grown in the shade, and planted in a free draining soil enriched with organic matter. Water during summer dry spells and apply fertilizer when in active growth. As for other amaryllids, flowering is adversely affected if the bulbs are disturbed once established. Note that all parts of these plants are extremely poisonous, and have been used in central and W. Africa as a component of arrow poison.

Schotia brachypetala (**Tree Fuschia** – Fabaceae) Σλ A highly ornamental tree found in semi arid areas of S.E. Africa, it grows to about 20 – 40' with a dense spreading crown. Where winters are cool and/or dry the tree is deciduous, though with increased soil moisture and warmer temperatures leaf shedding becomes less pronounced. The tree is usually bare by the time flowering commences in the spring. Blossoms, which are mostly produced on old wood, are a brilliant shiny red, fragrant and occur in branched flower heads. Because of the copious amounts of nectar produced they readily attract birds and bees. New leaves emerge a bronze coppery color, becoming bright green as they mature. The tree should be planted in an open area, away from sidewalks, in full sun where there is perfect drainage. This is a wind resistant, extremely drought tolerant tree and once established should never need watering in South Florida. *Schotia* appears to be better adapted to areas with hot dry summers (e.g., southern California) where flowering is more profuse. *Schotia afra* (Hottentot bean) is a smaller evergreen shrub/small tree, growing to about 15', with densely spaced rigid branches, and an attractively knotted trunk. Flowers are pink to bright red, and are followed by pink/green pods.

Siphonochilus decorus (**Dwarf ginger lily** – Zingiberaceae) δς Gingers of this genus are all from tropical Africa and were formerly classed as *Kaempferia*. *S. decorus* is a small rhizomatous plant from Mozambique; leaves are dark green and shiny on the upper surface, the flowers yellow, trumpet shaped and fragrant. There are other *Siphonochilus* spp. with blue, purple or rosy purple flowers. *Siphonochilus aethiopicus* (wild ginger), from South Africa, has attractive orchid – like blue flowers. Choose a site with bright light but shaded from direct sun, and provide soil enriched with organic matter. The soil should be kept moist whilst the plants are in active growth but allowed to dry out during the winter as they become dormant. Cool wet soil can cause the underground rhizomes to rot.

Sparmannia africana (**African hemp** – Malvaceae) ς A large shrub with conspicuously pubescent leaves and stems, found in E. and southern Africa and until recently classified as a member of the Tiliaceae. *S. africana* grows to about 15' with large, velvety, almost heart shaped, apple green leaves. During spring and summer showy cluster of white flowers are produced with prominent purple tipped yellow stamens. A double flowered variety, 'Flore Pleno' is sometimes seen. In the

landscape choose an area in full sun or with light afternoon shade with a moist but free draining soil. It is essential to avoid areas that flood, however supplemental water will be required during times of drought. Provide regular applications of a complete fertilizer throughout the growing season. A slight to moderate skin irritation can develop in those sensitive to the leaf hairs.

Spathodea campanulata (**African tulip tree** – Bignoniaceae) Σλ Native to the equatorial forests of Africa where it grows up to 80', *S. campanulata* forms a 50-60' showy flowering/shade tree in Miami-Dade. The tree is fast growing with a gray fissured trunk, which with time becomes buttressed. Although normally evergreen, *S. campanulata* will shed leaves as temperatures approach freezing or during a prolonged drought. The 16" compound leaves are made up of 9-21, prominently veined, dark green leaflets. The inflorescence is composed of terminal clusters of brown, velvety, claw-like buds that open in succession to reveal bright red, cup shaped flowers, with crinkled edges. The flower buds are filled with copious amounts of water and are messy if they drop. Since the tree has brittle wood and therefore readily breaks in windstorms, choose a protected site (e.g. well away from the coast). Full sun or light shade is recommended, and whilst *S. campanulata* is best adapted to deep rich soils it will grow on most soil types, including the limestone of Miami-Dade. Growth is best on moist soils, however the tree is able to tolerate drought. Regular pruning is required to remove storm- damaged wood and prevent subsequent disease problems.

Stapelia spp. (**Carion Flowers** – Apocynaceae) λΔ One of a specialized group of succulent plants found in arid areas of southern Africa that were formerly classified in the Asclepidaceae. Clump forming with fleshy, vertically ridged, flattened stems to 30", bearing soft spines and having a superficial resemblance to true cacti. The bizarre flowers are large, star-shaped, borne on a long stalk and conspicuously mottled, striped or spotted in shades of red, yellow, pink and brown. The most noticeable feature of *Stapelia* flowers is the often overpowering odor of putrid animal flesh. This is in order to attract carrion feeding insects such as blowflies for pollination. Stapelias require dry soil with perfect drainage and good air circulation since they are prone to rot. In their natural habitat they are often partially shaded by surrounding vegetation. A dry rock garden would be the most suitable site, situated in area where the odor of the flowers was not too offensive. An application of a slow release fertilizer during late spring is beneficial, but it is important not to water stapelias during the cool winter months as this can promote stem/root rot. Scale insects and mealybugs are the principal pests, and are best controlled using an appropriate insecticide applied as a soil drench. In suitably dry climates stapelias can become invasive.

There are other related succulents including:

Duvalia spp. a diminutive, spreading relative of *Stapelia*, also very prone to rotting if the soil is too wet. More often grown by enthusiasts in shallow containers than as landscape plants.

Hoodia spp. Sturdier relatives of *Stapelia* with leafless stems having multiple vertical ridges covered with conical tubercles, hard spines and large fleshy, malodorous flowers. Require full sun, and very prone to rotting in a humid climate. Must be grown in full sun, so unsuited to indoor cultivation.

Huernia spp. (Dragon flower) Small, low growing, clump forming succulents similar to *Stapelia*, found in E. Africa from southern Ethiopia to South Africa, with thick fleshy stems bearing prominent soft spiny teeth, though less offensive smelling flowers, than the stapelias. Provide a perfectly free draining soil, full sun and a dry site (dry rock garden).

Stephanotis floribunda (**Madagascar jasmine** – Apocynaceae) χ A small twining vine from Madagascar with glossy dark green leaves and clusters of fragrant white waxy flowers. Also known as the bridal bouquet, reflecting its use in floral arrangements for weddings. Individual flowers are tubular with flared lips and appear on new growth during summer, with flowering ceasing as days shorten. Provide a trellis, arch or pergola for support in an area receiving full sun with some shade during the hottest part of the day. Madagascar jasmine requires a moist, but free draining, organically enriched soil – mulching helps to keep the roots cool, and aids in preventing a build up of damaging root nematodes. Stems can become intertwined and will need to be thinned out. This is best done in late winter at which time any cold damaged growth (yellowed leaves) can be removed (flowers produced on new growth).

Sterculia murex (**Low veldt chestnut** –Malvaceae) $\Sigma\gamma$ A small tree from S.E. Africa that is grown for the attractive palmate foliage, yellow flowers and large unusual woody fruit. The leaves are hairy and palmately compound, whilst the flowers appear in showy sprays and like other members of the genus, are noticeable in lacking petals. Instead there is a tubular calyx made up of partially fused sepals, yellow and waxy with brown to red markings. As this is a soft wooded tree it is advisable not to situate it in an exposed area where it could be susceptible to wind damage. The seeds are edible after roasting. Although there is little information on the use of this tree in south Florida, the related *Sterculia foetida* (**Indian almond** – found from Madagascar through India into S.E. Asia) is available locally for use as a shade tree. This latter tree is renowned for the intense stench of the flowers (*Sterculia* is derived from *stercus*, Latin for dung) and for this reason it is usually planted well away from a residence. Other *sterculias* can be found in local botanical gardens including *S. tragacantha* from W. Africa the source of the food additive gum tragacanth. They seem well adapted to south Florida save for being susceptible to wind damage. The family Sterculiaceae have recently been reassigned to the Malvaceae.

Stereospermum kunthianum (**Pink jacaranda** – Bignoniaceae) Σ The popular name is misleading, since this not a true jacaranda (the flowers have more in common with pink tabebuias). Possibly one of the local African names (e.g. opolok

or lopat) would be more appropriate. A small, deciduous, flowering tree from tropical Africa that grows to no more than 50' (usually much less), producing terminal clusters of fragrant, pale pink, bell shaped flowers with red markings. Flowers appear when the tree is bare, before the compound leaves. A striking tree and although not common in cultivation, it is worth trying in Miami-Dade since the growing requirements are claimed to be similar to those of the related *Kigelia* (see above).


Strelitzia reginae (Bird of paradise – Strelitziaceae) ζΟλ A vigorous clumping herbaceous plant from South Africa with banana-like foliage and a striking inflorescence, shaped like the head of an African crane. At almost right angles to the stem there is a conspicuous, boat-shaped spathe, composed of fused reddish purple bracts from which emerge in sequence about six individual orange/blue flowers. Excellent for use as cut flowers. Bird-of-paradise should be planted in full sun or part shade, and though not too particular as to soil type responds well to a deep, rich, moist soil, and two to three applications of a slow release fertilizer such as a palm special. Small container plants should be gradually acclimatized to full sun before being planted in the landscape. Once established, the plant is drought tolerant and wind resistant.


A much larger relative of *S. reginae* is the **white bird of paradise**, *Strelitzia nicolai*, found in coastal areas of eastern South Africa and Mozambique. It grows as a multi-trunk evergreen tree to about 35', usually no more than 20' in Miami-Dade, with large banana like leaves. The inflorescence is similar in form to *S. reginae*, however the petals are blue and the outer sepals white. This is also a drought tolerant species once established and can be grown in full sun or partial shade. Provide plenty of space since the plant grows much more rapidly than *S. reginae*, and has a much more extensive root system.


Strophanthus gratus (**Climbing oleander** – Apocynaceae)χ A climbing shrub to 15-20' from tropical W. Africa, grown for the fragrant pinkish-white flowers. Another misleading common name (this not an oleander) where adoption of one of the local African names (e.g. sawai or osu) would seem more appropriate. The leaves are leathery, 2-6" long, glossy and olive green. Rose scented flowers appear in winter to spring and are white with a reddish tint, and eventual fade to yellow. Seed and bark of this and certain other *Strophanthus* spp. are very poisonous and were used to tip poison arrows. In Western medicine a digitalis – like cardiac glycoside, ouabain (from ouabaio tree, a local name) is used as a heart stimulant. Choose a site in full sun only if soil moisture can be maintained, especially during the hottest part of the year, otherwise partial shade during summer is beneficial. Enrich the planting area with some added organic matter, but ensure that the soil remains free draining.


Strophanthus preussii is found in forested areas of W. Africa where it grows into trees as a climbing shrub. The flowers of this species are white becoming a lemony yellow and have conspicuous yellow and purple markings in the throat. Of

particular note are the unusual foot-long purple to maroon tails that hang like streamers from the tips of the fused petals. When planting *S. preussii* choose a partially shaded area and maintain soil moisture.

Sutherlandia frutescens (**Balloon pea** – Fabaceae)  A low growing (4-5') soft wooded shrub from semi-arid areas of South Africa and Namibia, grown for the racemes of 6-7, orangey-red, pea-like flowers, and unusual inflated, green and red, bladder-like seed pods. Grow in full sun, choosing a site with perfect drainage, and when established maintain the soil on the dry side. Growth is rapid from seed, with flowering within a year, permitting its' use as a flowering annual in temperate climates. No information is available on the use of *S. frutescens* in south Florida landscapes, particularly its ability to survive the hot humid summer. Balloon pea is of particular interest as it has been, for hundreds of years, the most widely used medicinal plant in South Africa (another common name is cancer bush). Anecdotal evidence of efficacy as an immuno-stimulant, has lead to its' use in South Africa as a readily available alternative to expensive drug therapy for AIDS patients.

Synadenium grantii (**African milk bush** – Euphorbiaceae)  This and most of the other cultivated *Synadenium* spp. are found in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and neighboring countries, and are grown for the showy flowers and, in some instances, colorful foliage. The frequently branched gray/green fleshy stems, which contain copious amounts of poisonous milky white sap, become more woody as they mature, bear thick leaves, and dark red flowers. In the cultivar 'Rubra' the leaves are red on the upper surface, and reddish purple underneath. *S. grantii* is indifferent as to soil providing it is free draining, and requires a site in full sun. This is a highly salt tolerant plant, suitable for planting in a sheltered location near the ocean. There are other species: *Synadenium compactum* var. *rubrum* is larger with dark red flowers and leaves purplish red underneath, whilst *Synadenium cupulare* from South Africa only grows to 6', but is extremely poisonous (known as the 'Sheba Valley death tree'). The milky sap from all of these plants can cause severe dermatitis/eye irritation as well as being an internal poison.

Tamarindus indica (**Tamarind** – Fabaceae)  This is the only species in the genus and its origins are obscure but believed to be tropical Africa. This is an excellent storm fast specimen tree for a large lot. The pods contain an edible pulp widely used as a condiment (see the section on vegetables and fruit trees).

Tecomaria capensis (**Cape honeysuckle** – Bignoniaceae)  A sprawling vine-like shrub from South Africa that has become a very popular landscape plant in warm climates around the world, including south Florida. The leaves are compound and dark green, the upper surface of each leaflet is shiny and the margins serrated. Flowers occur in terminal clusters and are a vibrant orange, with a funnel shaped calyx having two lips and spreading lobes. In south Florida flowering is most pronounced during the drier months of the year. Choose a site in full sun for

maximum flower production with free draining soil in an area that will not flood. Tecomaria is prone to root rots where soil remains too moist. Prune heavily after flowering and as needed to keep within bounds – the stems readily root on contact with ground. *T. capensis* can be grown as an informal hedge, or trained against a sunny wall. A number of cultivars are available: ‘Aurea’ has bright golden flowers, ‘Coccinea’ scarlet, ‘Salmonea’ pink and ‘Lutea’ is low growing with deep yellow flowers.

Thunbergia erecta (**King’s mantle** – Acanthaceae) $\chi\zeta$ A sprawling shrub, that will climb if supported, found in tropical W. Africa and widely grown for the deep blue to purple, trumpet shaped flowers. The slender stems are covered with 1-2” shiny, bluntly toothed, dark green leaves. The flowers, which are solitary, arise from leaf axils and are produced throughout the year, especially after heavy rains. Plant in full sun, though some partial shade during the hottest part of the afternoon is beneficial, choosing a site with free draining but moist soil. Prune as necessary, however heavy pruning will greatly reduce flowering. ‘Alba’ is a white flowered cultivar. *Thunbergia crispa*, from northern Kenya, is far less common in cultivation (it can be successfully grown in Miami-Dade) and has more brittle, wiry stems, with smaller grayish green pointed leaves and smaller dark blue flowers. *T. crispa* is more drought tolerant than *T. erecta*, but is not quite as floriferous.

Trichodidema spp. (n/a Aizoaceae) $\lambda\Delta\zeta$ A group of low growing succulent shrubs usually found in seasonally dry areas of South Africa with summer rainfall. Often caudiciform (swollen base) with slender branches that can be short and mat like, or long and prostrate. The leaves are small, almost circular in cross section, and usually have conspicuous radiating bristles on their tips. The flowers are produced during summer and are solitary, borne on short stalks and bear a resemblance to small daisies. *Trichodidema bulbosum* has deep red flowers, whilst *Trichodidema densum* has crimson flowers. These plants require perfect drainage and should be tried in a dry rock garden in full sun using a gritty free draining soil. Do not water during winter.

Tritonia crocata (**Flame freesia** – Iridaceae) δ Growing from an underground corm, this colorful South African native is dormant from late summer through winter. However in spring new growth commences with a fan of sword shaped foliage, followed later in the spring to early summer by branched spikes of cup shaped flowers with broad orangey red petals. After flowering the foliage yellows and dies down and by late summer the plant is once more dormant. There are a number of *T. crocata* hybrids in white, cream, salmon, pinks, oranges and red. ‘Princess Beatrix’ is a deep orange, ‘Blazing Star’ a deep orange red and ‘Isabella’ a deep salmon pink. There are also other species of *Tritonia* that are found in cultivation.

Corms should be planted about 2” deep, 3” apart during fall/early winter in a very free draining soil enriched with some sphagnum peat or coir. Choose a site in full sun that does not flood (excellent for a dry rock garden). Do not water until new

shoots are produced at which time a light application of fertilizer is appropriate, and maintain soil so that it is just moist. After flowering, and as foliage dies down during the summer, allow the soil to dry out. If you are concerned about the dormant corms rotting during late summer rains lift, allow to dry, then store in a cool place until they can be planted sometime in the late fall.

Tulbaghia violacea (**Society garlic** – Alliaceae) **Eδ** A clump forming South African native, with individual plants growing from a rhizomatous corm. The leaves are narrow and onion like, and during the warmer months of the year dainty clusters of small blue tubular flowers with flared petals are produced. A related species, *Tulbaghia fragrans* (sweet garlic), also from South Africa, has pleasantly scented pink flowers, though the foliage has an odor of onion when crushed. Society garlic is usually seen in south Florida as a bedding plant. Select a site with full sun and set out in a light but organically enriched soil, leaving 8-10" between plants with a 3" covering of mulch. Although drought tolerant, plants thrive more if the soil is kept just moist - water during hot dry weather.

Uncarina spp. (n/a – **Pedaliaceae**) **ΔϸΛϸ** These sesame relatives native to Madagascar where they are found growing in limestone outcrops as small flowering trees or shrubs (all under 10'). They have been of most interest to collectors of pachycaulous plants (fat plants) as container items. However they could be planted more widely in local landscapes, particularly in dry rock gardens as can be seen at Fairchild Tropical Gardens. The leaves are somewhat coarse, often lobed and covered with short hairs, the stems swollen the base of the plant often forming a cudex, depending on the species. Flowers consist of a tubular corolla with prominent lobes and be can be yellow, red, orange to pink depending on the species. The pollen is unusual in being paste-like and is squeezed out of the anthers by the chewing action of pollen beetles. The fruit is a capsule armed with many long thin spines the tip of which carries a sharp curved point. These become enmeshed in animal fur (such as lemurs) which serves as a means of seed dispersal. Because of the unusual method of pollen transfer plants in cultivation rarely set seed – one species *U. roeseoliana* is reported to set seed in California. Uncarinas should be planted in full sun in a gritty soil mix and young plants respond well to fertilizer during the rainy season. They can be watered during extended periods of hot dry weather. During winter water sparingly (when temperatures are above 75°F) and do not apply fertilizer. (see footnote 6 for more detailed information).

Watsonia spp. (**Bugle lily** – Iridaceae) **δ** Stately plants growing from underground corms, found exclusively in South Africa and Madagascar, producing very attractive flower spikes similar to gladioli. Some species are evergreen and tend to flower in late summer, whilst others flower during spring to early summer and become dormant after flowering. The leaves are generally sword shaped from 2-3', and are followed by 4-5' tall stems bearing flower spikes that are often branched. Individual flowers are tubular with a flared mouth and range from white through pinks, mauve,

orange, maroon and other shades of red. Best effect is seen if planted in groups (beds or borders), though there are dwarf varieties that are amenable to container culture. Choose a site with at most some dappled afternoon summer shade and plant in a free draining soil that never becomes waterlogged. Corms are particularly prone to rot when dormant and it is probably wise to lift those varieties that enter dormancy during summer, storing them in dry sphagnum peat, then setting them out later in the fall. Lifting corms will not interfere with flowering as is the case with many other plants grown from bulbs/corms. Plant 2-3" deep and 6" apart and incorporate some slow release or organic fertilizer at the time of planting. Do not over fertilize as this stimulates leafy growth at the expense of flower production. Some species of *Watsonia* have become invasive in areas of Australia and New Zealand.

Welwitschia mirabilis (- Welwitschiaceae) The plant family Welwitschiaceae contains a single completely unique species, *W. mirabilis*. Although not regarded as a landscape plant, its' unique form and growth habit have fascinated plant collectors. *W. mirabilis* is classified as a xerophytic (adapted to a dry climate) gymnosperm (cone bearing). Mature plants consist of a very deep tap root, a short swollen hollowed out stem, which because of the unusual growth pattern is broader at the apex than the base (like an inverted cone). The original two opposite seedling leaves, are the only leaves ever produced and these continue to grow over the life of the plant, a period of 400 - 1500 years. The leaves are a dull green, leathery and strap-like each lying on the ground where they grow to more than 6', becoming torn and twisted with time. Since rainfall is negligible the plant obtains water through the leaves from the frequent coastal fogs.

Like other gymnosperms the plant is dioecious (separate male and female plants). Male cones are small and light pink and female cones larger and greener, both types are found as axillary cymes. Unlike other coniferous plants, where pollination is affected by wind, insects are believed to transfer pollen from male to female cones. *W. mirabilis* can be grown from seed in containers using a gritty potting mix low in organic matter, and maintained much as a cactus.

Whitfieldia elongata (**White candles** – Acanthaceae)§ The *Whitfieldia* are small evergreen shrubs from W. Africa that bear an outward resemblance to the related and more familiar *Crossandra* spp. *Whitfieldia elongata* has ovate smooth leathery leaves with downwardly curled margins and prominent veins. The white flowers are clustered into an attractive, nodding, terminal raceme. *Whitfieldia lateritia* is similar with brick red flowers. Situate out of direct sun but in an area receiving bright light, and provide a light, free draining, organically enriched soil.

Zamioculcas zamifolia OE (False Zamia – Araceae) *Z. zamifolia*, the only species in the family *Zamioculcas*, is found in half shady rocky areas of the lowland forests of E. Africa, especially Kenya. The common name refers to the plant's resemblance to the cycad, *Zamia furfuracea* (so-called cardboard palm). Of recent interest as an

indoor foliage plant because of the stiff, attractive, glossy green leaves, low water requirement, and apparent lack of pests. The leaves arise in clusters from a thick underground rhizome, with the base of each leaf stalk markedly swollen. Flowers resemble other aroids with a white spadix (fleshy flower spike) subtended by a bright green spathe (large bract).

To date *Zamioculcas* has been little used locally as an outdoor landscape plant, probably due to its' sensitivity to low temperatures. Consider using *Zamioculcas* in a sheltered position as a groundcover, out of the direct sun, but where there is bright light. Temperatures below 40°F are liable to cause damage so locations within 2-3 miles of the ocean may offer the best chances of success. Provide an organically enriched, free draining, somewhat sandy soil and water only if soil appears dry – avoid over watering in winter. New plants can be propagated by placing leaves on the surface of some moist potting soil.

The landscape plants discussed above are listed below according to their common name. Information on the [palms and cycads](#) included in this list is presented in a separate section of this guide (use the link provided to access this section).

Landscape Plants Listed According to their Common Name

Abyssinian Banana –	<i>Ensete ventricosum</i>	Baby sun rose –	<i>Aptenia cordifolia</i>
African Daisy Bush –	<i>Gamolepsis</i>	Balloon pea –	<i>Sutherlandia frutescens</i>
	<i>chrysanthemoides</i>	Baobab –	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>
African doum palm -	<i>Hyphaene thebaica</i>	Bismarckia -	<i>Bismarckia nobilis</i>
African Fern Pine –	<i>Afrocarpus gracilia</i>	Bleeding heart –	<i>Clerodendrum thomsonae</i>
African Hemp –	<i>Sparmannia africana</i>	Blood lily -	<i>Scadoxus multiflorus</i>
African Iris –	<i>Dietes</i> spp.	Bloodwood tree –	<i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i>
African mahogany –	<i>Khaya nyasica</i>	Blue clerodendrum –	<i>Clerodendrumugandense</i>
African milk bush –	<i>Synadenium grantii</i>	Bottle palm -	<i>Hyophorbe lagenicaulis</i>
African moringa –	<i>Moringa ovalifolia</i>	Boundary tree –	<i>Newbouldia laevis</i>
African oil palm -	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	Bugle lily –	<i>Watsonia</i> spp.
African palmyra –	<i>Borassus aethiopium</i>	Bush violet –	<i>Barleria obtusa</i>
African peach –	<i>Sarcocephalus latifolius</i>	Cabada palm –	<i>Dypsis cabada</i>
African tulip tree -	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	Cancer bush –	see balloon pea
African wattle –	<i>Peltophorum africanum</i>	Candelabra aloe –	<i>Aloe arborescens</i>
Areca palm-	<i>Dypsis lutescens</i>	Cape chestnut –	<i>Calodendrum capensis</i>
Ashanti blood –	<i>Mussaenda</i>	Cape cowslip –	<i>Lachenalia</i> spp.
	<i>erytherophylla</i>	Cape gardenia –	<i>Rothmania capensis</i>
Baboon flower –	<i>Babiana</i> spp.		

Cape honeysuckle –	<i>Tecomaria capensis</i>	Indian almond –	<i>Sterculia foetida</i>
Cape leadwort –	<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	Latan palms –	<i>Latania spp.</i>
Cape milkwort –	<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	Low veldt chestnut –	<i>Sterculia murek</i>
Cape tulip –	<i>Haemanthus coccineus</i>	Lucky bean tree –	<i>Azalia quanzensis</i>
Carrion flower –	<i>Stapelia spp.</i>	Lucubensis palm –	<i>Dypsis lucubensis</i>
Cathedral cactus –	<i>Euphorbia trigona</i>	Madagascar jasmine –	<i>Stephanotis floribunda</i>
Climbing oleander –	<i>Strophanthus gratus</i>	Madagascar palm –	<i>Pachypodium lameri</i>
Coastal red milkwood –	<i>Mimusops caffra</i>	Madagascar rubber vine –	<i>Cryptostegia madagascariensis</i>
Colville's glory –	<i>Colvillea racemosa</i>	Majesty palm –	<i>Ravena rivularis</i>
Coral tree –	<i>Erythrina lysistemon</i>	Markhamia –	<i>Markhamia lutea</i>
Cork tree-	<i>Erythrina latissima</i>	Mickey Mouse shrub –	<i>Ochna serrulata</i>
Corn plant –	<i>Dracena spp.</i>	Napoleon's Hat –	<i>Napoleana imperealis</i>
Crown of thorns –	<i>Euphorbia milii</i>	Natal cycad –	<i>Encephalartos natalensis</i>
Desert rose –	<i>Adenium obesum</i>	Orchid trees –	<i>Bauhinia spp.</i>
Dracena –	<i>Dracena spp.</i>	Paintbrush lily –	<i>Scadoxus multiflorus</i>
Dragon flowers –	<i>Huernia spp.</i>	Pineapple lilies –	<i>Eucomis spp.</i>
Dragon tree –	<i>Dracena draco</i>	Pink jacaranda -	<i>Stereospermum kunthianum</i>
Dwarf ginger lily –	<i>Siphonochilus decorus</i>	Pink trumpet vine –	<i>Podranea ricasoliana</i>
Dwarf golden shower tree –	<i>Cassia afrodistula</i>	Poison arrow plant –	<i>Acokanthera oblongifolia</i>
East African doum palm -	<i>Hyphaene compressa</i>	Polka dot plant –	<i>Hypoestes aritata</i>
Eastern Cape cycad-	<i>Encephalartos altensteinii</i>	Pom-pom tree –	<i>Dais cotinifolia</i>
Elephant bush –	<i>Portulacaria afra</i>	Powder puff –	<i>Barringtonia racemosa</i>
False Zamia –	<i>Zamioculcas zamifolia</i>	Prickly cycad –	<i>Encephalartos altensteinii</i>
Fern tree –	<i>Fillicium decipiens</i>	Pride of the cape –	<i>Bauhinia galpini</i> syn. <i>B. punctata</i>
Fiddle leaf fig –	<i>Ficus lyrata</i>	Quinine tree –	<i>Rauwolfia caffra</i>
Fish poison tree –	<i>Barringtonia racemosa</i>	Reflexed dracena –	<i>Dracena reflexa</i>
Flame creeper –	<i>Combretum grandiflorum</i>	Ribbon bush –	<i>Hypoestes aristata</i>
Flame freesia –	<i>Tritonia crocata</i>	Royal poinciana –	<i>Delonix regia</i>
Fragrant dracena –	<i>Dracena fragrans</i>	Sausage tree –	<i>Kigelia africana</i>
Fried egg tree –	<i>Oncoba spinosa</i>	Scarborough lily –	<i>Cyrtanthus mackenii</i>
Fringed hibiscus –	<i>Hibiscus schizopetalus</i>	Scarlet kleinia –	<i>Kleinia fulgens</i> syn. <i>Senecio fulgens</i>
Gingerbread palm –	<i>Hyphaene thebaica</i>	Senegal date palm –	<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>
Glory lily –	<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	September bells –	<i>Rothmania globosa</i>
Gold dust dracena –	<i>Dracena surculosa</i>	Showy combretum –	<i>Combretum grandiflorum</i>
Henkel's yellow wood –	<i>Podocarpus henkelii</i>	Silver leaf daisy –	<i>Euryops pectinatus</i>
Hottentot fig –	<i>Carpobrotus eduli</i>	Small false loquat –	<i>Mitriostigma axillare</i>
Hottentot bean –	<i>Schotia afra</i>	Society garlic –	<i>Tulbaghia violacea</i>
Hurricane palm –	<i>Dictyosperma album</i>	Spindle palm -	<i>Hyophorbe verschaffelti</i>
Ifafa lily –	<i>Cyrtanthus mackenii</i>	Spiral ginger –	<i>Costus afer</i>
iLala Palm –	<i>Hyphaene coriacea</i>	Spider plant –	<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>
India rubber vine -	<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>	St. Thomas tree –	<i>Bauhinia tomentosa</i>
Jammy mouth –	<i>Ruttya fruiticosa</i>	Star lavender –	<i>Grewia occidentalis</i>
Kambroo –	<i>Fockea edulis</i>	Tamarind –	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>
Kapok tree –	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	Teddy bear palm –	<i>Dypsis lastelliana</i>
Kenyan shower tree –	<i>Cassia afrodistula</i>	Traveller's tree –	<i>Ravanella madagascariensis</i>
Kenyan giant cycad-	<i>Encephalartos tegulaneus</i>	Tree dracena –	<i>Dracena arborea</i>
King's mantle –	<i>Thunbergia erecta</i>		
Kite tree –	<i>Nuxia floribunda</i>		

Tree fuschia –	<i>Schotia brachypetala</i>	Yellow morea –	<i>Dietes bicolor</i>
Tree wisteria –	<i>Bolusanthus speciosus</i>	Yellow wood –	<i>Afrocarpus falcatus</i>
Triangle fig –	<i>Ficus natalensis</i> ssp. <i>lepeuri</i>	Zululand cycad –	<i>Encephalartos ferox</i>
	syn. <i>Ficus triangularis</i>		
Triangle palm –	<i>Dypsis decaryi</i>		
Tropical snowball –	<i>Dombeya</i> spp		
Umbrella thorn –	<i>Acacia tortilis</i> .		
Voi cycad-	<i>Encephalartos kisambo</i>		
West Indian holly –	<i>Leea coccinea</i>		
White bird of paradise –	<i>Strelitzia reginae</i>		
White candles –	<i>Whitfieldia elongata</i>		
Wild iris –	<i>Dietes grandiflora</i>		
Wild plum –	<i>Harpephyllum caffrum</i>		