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## PEARLY BEACH BEWAREA CONSERVANCY

### FYNBOS GARDENS

I have discovered this amazing website with tips to establish an indigenous fynbos garden: [www.egardens.co.za](http://www.egardens.co.za) And any questions you might have pertaining to gardening, plants, landscaping, etc, you can email to: [rod@egardens.co.za](mailto:rod@egardens.co.za). But before you spend a lot of money on plants, please ensure that the plants are indigenous to the specific area.

Here is an extract from this website:

A fynbos garden goes beyond just proteas and ericas and includes a rich variety of reeds, bulbs, buchus and succulents in addition to shrubs. Synonymous with the southern tip of South Africa, the famous Cape floristic region is home to one of the world's richest floras known as fynbos, and is the smallest of the six recognized floral kingdoms of the world. Almost 9000 species occur within this area of approximately 90,000 km<sup>2</sup>, at least two thirds of which are not found anywhere else on earth.

Many people have the misconception that fynbos consists mainly of Proteas and Ericas and while these are very well represented in this area, in reality, this is the most diverse vegetation of any region in Africa and includes literally hundreds of reeds, bulbs, pelargoniums, buchus and succulents to name but a few.

One of the many positive attributes of fynbos is that the plants look good for most of the year and although some 60% of fynbos species flower in spring, there are many that will flower throughout the year.

Fynbos thrives in sandy, nutrient poor, acid soil. It is a good idea to test the acidity of the soil, pH5 being ideal.

It is impossible to give a complete list of the wealth of fynbos plants available but the suggestions below will get you started.

#### Shrubs

***Protea magnifica*** (Queen protea) is a magnificent 2m high protea bearing huge, showy, pink or cream flowers in spring and autumn.

***Protea repens*** (Sugarbush) produces masses of nectar rich flowers of cream, deep pink or red. Reaching a height of 3m, this is an excellent choice as a focal point or as a lovely background for other fynbos plants.

***Erica grandiflora*** bears masses of attractive, tubular, bright orange flowers. This vigorous grower reaches a height of 1m and thrives in a hot, dry climate.

***Erica spectabilis*** is one of the showiest and prettiest ericas with delicate pale pink flowers borne in profusion.

***Salvia chamelaeagnea*** (Wild sage) grows to a height of 2m and bears masses of white or sky blue flowers.

***Eriocephalus africanus*** (Wild rosemary) is a most decorative shrub of about 1m in height. The grey needle like leaves have a lovely aroma and when the tiny white flowers go to seed in spring, the whole plant looks like it is covered with cotton wool.

### **Restios**

***Elegia stipularis*** is a small restio that is ideal for the smaller garden as it grows to a height of 500mm - 1m. The flower heads are enclosed by attractive pink sheaths.

***Condropetalum tectorum*** (Dekriet) is a taller growing variety of restio reaching a height of 1,50m - 2m. This is an excellent accent plant.

***Thamnocortus punctatus*** is a small restio, 400 - 600mm, with an almost fluffy appearance and deep brown, dense, drooping seed heads.

### **Bulbs**

***Babiana rubrocyanea*** (Kelkiewyn) The exquisite cup shaped flowers of this lovely plant are blue with contrasting red centres.

***Lachenalia aloides*** (Cape cowslip) bears beautiful tubular flowers in a variety of shades such as red, yellow, purple, orange, mauve, pink and blue. The rosette- like leaves are often covered with purple spots.

***Ornithogalum thyrsoides*** (Chicerinchee) These popular bulbs bear showy racemes of creamy white, star shaped flowers in spring.

### **Perennials**

***Pelargonium cucullatum*** (Wild geranium) grows to 1m, has large velvety leaves and bears masses of lovely deep mauve flowers.

***Felicia amelloides*** (Blue marguerite) is a bushy perennial bearing a profusion of sky blue daisy flowers with bright yellow centres in spring.

***Selago thunbergii*** (Blue haze) is a 450mm high shrublet that bears graceful plumes of misty blue flowers in spring.

### **Annuals**

***Arctotis hirsuta*** (Namaqualand daisy) is a hardy annual that produces a bold show of colour in spring. The daisy flowers range in colour from white through bright yellow to deep orange.

***Dorotheanthus bellidiformis*** (Bokbaaivygie) these succulent annuals cover the ground with a profusion of spectacular, jewel like colours at the end of winter.

Information obtained from [www.egardens.co.za](http://www.egardens.co.za)

Compiled by Elrina Versfeld on behalf of the Pearly Beach Conservancy.

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