



JUBILEE YEAR 2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

PLANT A JUBILEE YEAR TREE OF HOPE (10th – 17th April 2025)

In Holy Week, as we take the final Lenten journey of Calvary towards the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, each parish is encouraged to plant a Jubilee Year indigenous 'Tree of Hope'. Our Jubilee Year trees will benefit our earth, our natural environment, deepen our own spiritual, physical and mental wellbeing, grow ecosystems and help with sustaining a rich and balanced biodiversity.

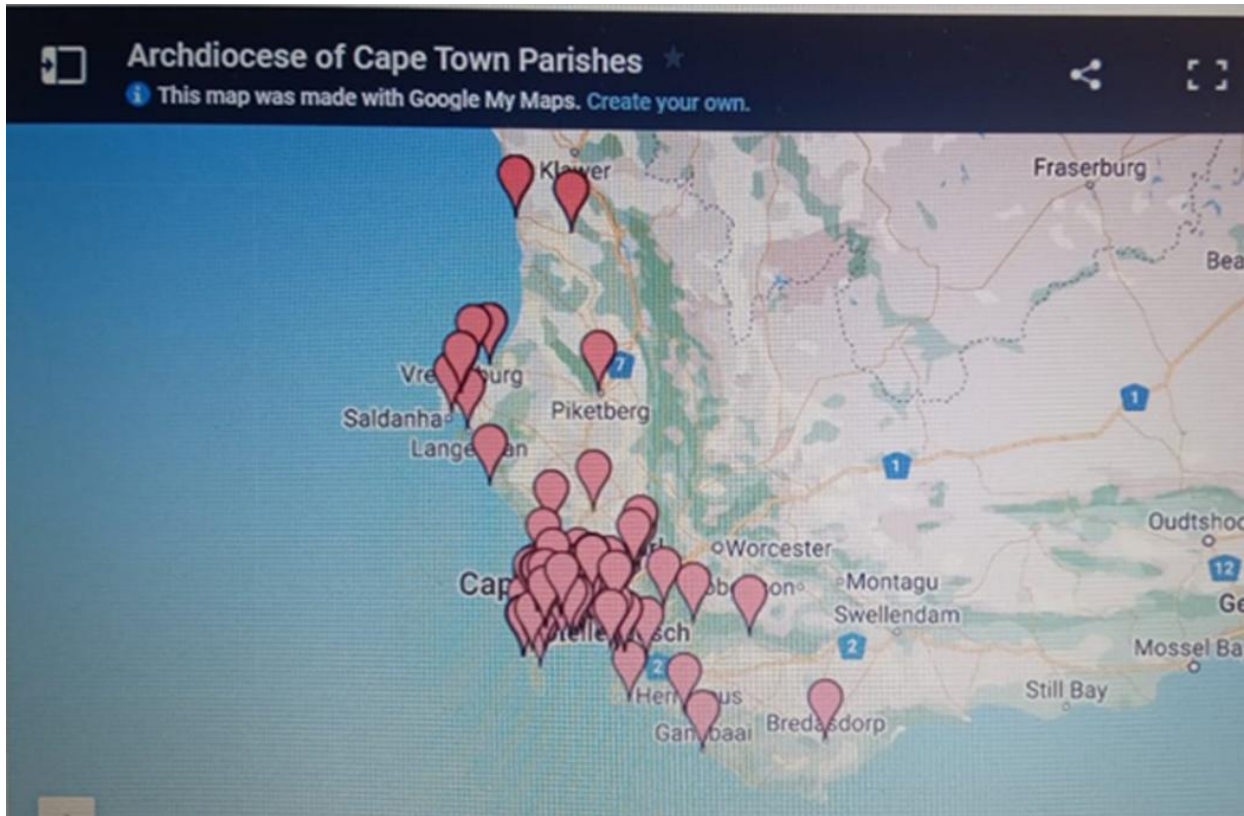
Trees provide shade/shelter, habitat, privacy, attractive foliage & beautiful flowers, improve air quality, reduce noise and hide undesirable views. A tree is indigenous to a region or an area if it grew and evolved there through natural processes. The benefits of planting indigenous varieties include the fact that it is much hardier and more attractive to local wildlife.

At the core of the significance of trees lies oxygen production and absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Forests, with their expansive canopies, emerge as grand respiratory organs, generating a substantial portion of the Earth's breathable air.

The lush canopies of forests serve as thriving ecosystems, providing refuge for an astonishing array of plant and animal species which underscores the need for their conservation in the face of environmental challenges.

Pope Francis informs us in Laudato Si' that "...It is hard for us to accept that the way natural ecosystems work is exemplary: plants synthesize nutrients which feed herbivores; these in turn become food for carnivores, which produce significant quantities of organic waste which give rise to new generations of plants... (Laudato Si' 22) and The ecosystems of tropical forests possess an enormously complex biodiversity which is almost impossible to appreciate fully, yet when these forests are burned down or levelled for purposes of cultivation, within the space of a few years countless species are lost and the areas frequently become arid wastelands. A delicate balance has to be maintained when speaking about these places, for we cannot overlook the huge global economic interests which, under the guise of protecting them, can undermine the sovereignty of individual nations. (Laudato Si' 38)





POTENTIAL TREE SPECIES

Below is a list of **20 indigenous South African trees** suitable for planting within 100 kilometres of Cape Town, along with their common names, botanical names, preferred climatic, ecological role, soil conditions and associated indigenous companion plants:

TREE TYPE	BOTANICAL NAME	PREFERRED CLIMATE	ECOLOGICAL ROLES OF TREES	PREFERRED SOIL CONDITIONS	ASSOCIATED PLANTS / COMPANION PLANTING
Wild Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>Africana</i>	thrives in dry to moderate rainfall areas	Supports birds like pigeons and doves with its fruit; provides nesting sites. Pollinator - Bees are attracted to its flowers, contributing to pollination. Stabilizes coastal dunes' its dense foliage offers excellent windbreaks. Hosts caterpillars of the milwood moth. Chacma baboons Cape Rock chat, Mouse birds, Redwing startings, Cape Bulbul and other birds are attracted to the berries.	prefers well-drained soils	Often found with proteas and restios in Fynbos regions
White Milkwood	<i>Sideroxylon inerme</i>	Coastal tree shady and propogates easily		Tolerates sandy and saline soils	Coastal scrub and dune vegetation
Silver Tree	<i>Leucadendron argenteum</i>	endemic to Table Mountain slopes	Endemic to Cape Town, Plays a critical role in the Fynbos ecosystems, Regenerates from seed after fire	Requires sandy, acidic and well-drained soils	Protea species, ericas and restios
Kei apple	<i>Dovyalis caffra</i>	Drought resistant	Fruits attract birds and small mammals; thorny branches make exelent natural hedges	does well in sandy, loamy, or clay soils	Combines well with thorny shrubs in thicket vegetation
Karee	<i>Searsia lancea</i>	Drought resistant	Provides shade and sustenance for livestock in arid areas. Berries attract various bird species	prefers sandy to clay soils	grows well alongside grasses and alongside Acacia species
Wild Camphor	<i>Tarachonanthus camphoratus</i>	tolerates semi-arid conditions	Aromatic oilage repls pests.	adapts to sandy and rocky soils	found in bushveld and karoo environments
Wild Almond	<i>Brabejum stellatifolium</i>	Prefers moisture - found along streams	A pioneer species in riparian zones, preventing soil erosion; Historically used by the Khoisan People	acidic soils	Ferns and riparian shrubs
Common Coral Tree	<i>Erythrina lysistemon</i>	Moderate rainfall	Attracts sunbirds with its striking red flowers and it is used for traditional medicine	Prefers sandy, loamy soils	Grass species and flowering shrubs
Pock Ironwood	<i>Chionanthus floveolatus</i>	Found in moist forested regions	Produces nectar-rich flowers that attract pollinators. Stabilizes soils in forest margins preventing soil erosion.	prefers well-drained soils	Works well with forest canopy species
Cape Ash	<i>Ekebergia capensis</i>	Prefers moist forested areas	Produces dense shade, improving microclimates in urban areas. Fruits are eaten by monkeys and birds	grows in a variety of soils	Ferns and shade-tolerant shrubs
Cape Willow	<i>Salix mucronatata</i> subsp. <i>Capensis</i>	found along rivers	Critical for streambank stabilization and attracts aquatic invertebrates and frogs.	prefers moist, snady and loamy soils	Combines well with riparian vegetation
False Olive	<i>Buddleja saligna</i>	Tolerates dry conditions	Use as hedging and attracting pollinators; Hardy and drought resistant	Grows in sandy, rocky soils;	Found with scrub and bushveld plants
Assegai Tree	<i>Curtisia dentata</i>	Prefers forrest environment	Provides hardwood for cultural artifacts and supports understory plants	moist and rish soils	Shade loving plants like ferns
Spoonwood	<i>Cassine peragua</i>	Tolerates moderate rainfall	Provides fruit for birds and small mammals and evergreen foliage enhances landscapes	Found in thickets	Shrubs and small forest plants
Wild Plum	<i>Harpephyllum caffrum</i>	Thrives better in wetter areas	Shade and windbreak tree in gardens and on farms, popular with fruit bats. Effective for windbreaks and soil stabilization in arid environments	Prefers fertile, wet-drained soils	Riparian plants and forest understory species
Sand Olive	<i>dodonea viscosa</i> subsp. <i>Angustifolia</i>	Prefers arid to semi-arid climates	Shade tolerant and vital for forest undergrowth stabilisation.	Tolerates sandy and rocky soils	Often found with proteas and succulents
Cape Beech		Requires moist, forested areas	Fruits are eaten by bubulis and other birds	Tolerates a range of soils	Grows alongside forest understory plants like Asparagus
Wild Fig	<i>Ficus sur</i>	Common in riperean zones	Keystone species providing food for many speices, including bats and birds.	Common in Riparian Zones	Found in riverine shrubs and trees
Sweet Thorn	<i>Vachellia karroo</i>	Prefers drier regions	Fixes nitrogen in soils improving fertility for surrounding plants	Thrives in sandy, loamy, or clay soils	Shrubs and small forest plants

These suggested tree species were chosen for their adaptability and ecological benefits and are integral to the Western Cape's biodiversity. They thrive in conditions typical of the Western Cape, providing food, shade/shelter, habitat and ecological stability.



PLANTING TIPS



Site selection	<p>Match the tree to its natural habitat (e.g., riparian zones for <i>Ficus sur</i>, sandy soils for <i>Leucadendron argenteum</i>).</p> <p>Avoid planting trees with aggressive root systems (Wild Fig) near building structures.</p>
Excavating the Hole:	<p>Width: The planting hole should be 2-3 times the width of the root ball. This allows roots to spread easily into the surrounding soil. For a tree with a root ball approximately 30 cm wide, the hole should be about 60-90 cm in diameter.</p> <p>Depth: The hole should be as deep as the root ball or container height (usually around 30-40 cm). Avoid digging deeper than necessary, as loose soil at the base can cause the tree to sink over time.</p>
Soil Preparation	<p>Loosen the soil in the hole and in the immediate surrounding area to improve root penetration.</p> <p>Avoid compacting the bottom of the hole.</p> <p>Enrich soil with compost for nutrient-loving species (Wild Plum).</p> <p>Ensure good drainage for trees like Silver Tree, which are sensitive to waterlogging.</p>
Planting Season	<p>Plant in late autumn or early winter to take advantage of seasonal rainfall.</p> <p>Ensure frost-sensitive trees are planted in frost-free areas.</p>
Watering	<p>Water regularly during the establishment phase (first 1-2 years).</p> <p>Gradually reduce watering for drought-resistant trees (Wild Olive, Sweet Thorn).</p>
Spacing	<p>Provide adequate space for canopy development. For example, <i>Erythrina lysistemon</i> can grow quite wide.</p>
Mulching	<p>Apply mulch around the base to retain soil moisture and suppress weeds</p>
Protection	<p>Protect young trees from browsing by animals like goats and deer.</p> <p>Stake trees in windy areas until they are well-established.</p>
Companion Planting	<p>Pair trees with indigenous plants to mimic natural ecosystems and promote biodiversity</p>

LIST OF NURSERIES



NURSERY	LOCATION/ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL	WEBSITE
Besters Indigenous Nursery	Stellenbosch	27828899197		
Cape Garden Centres	Joostenberg Vlakte, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Somerset West	27219884515		
Cedar Nursery	Paarl Western Cape	27218633556		
Earth Fair Nursery	Hout Bay Cape Town	27217900807		
Elands Nursery	Wellington Western Cape	27218731888		
Ferndale Nursery	Brommersvlei Road, Constantia Cape Town	27217942221		
FynbosLIFE			info@fynboslife.ocm	Welcome to FynbosLIFE
Good Hope Gardens Nursery	Plateau Road Cape Point Cape Town		info@goodhopegardensnursery.co.za	www.goodhopegardensnursery.co.za
Greenpop Nursery			info@greenpop.org	www.greenpop.org
Groenhoek Indigenous Nursery	Malmesbury Western Cape	27224858468		
Houw Hoek Nursery	Bot River	27218489622		
Induli Wholesale Nursery	Grabouw			https://www.indulinursery.co.za/
Kenilworth Garden Centre	Loch Road Kenilworth Cape Town			
Kirstenbosch Garden Centre	Rhodes Drive Newlands Cape Town 7700	27217976570		
Newlands Nursery depot (often supply trees for free)	Liesbeek Parkway, Newlands Cape Town	27216894035		arboriculture.info@capetown.gov.za
Riverside Garden Centre	Kendal Road, Diep River Cape Town	27217120284		
Stodels Garden Centres	Belville, Kenilworth, Constantia, Milnerton, Somerset West			
Summerset Nursery	Somerset West	218527400		
Themba Trees	Elgin Grabouw		info@thembatrees.co.za	
Tokai Arboretum Plant Nursery	Tokai Forest, Cape Town	Contact through SANParks		
Veld and Sea Nursery	Cape Peninsular			www.veldandsea.com
Diep Gat Bome	Hermanus	282122342 0835333253		

GENERAL NOTES, OTHER SUGGESTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS

1. Trees can get very big and cause problems to buildings. Plant trees a good distance away from buildings unless they are smallish species with deep rather than lateral roots.
2. Some species like Keurbooms have fairly short lives (around 20 years).
3. Plant on the north side of buildings unless a shade loving species. Most of the fynbos and other smaller shrubs should themselves be on the north side of trees so that they get sun.
4. Create an arboretum to commemorate deceased parishioners. People respond well to this, and it can stimulate planting / environmental care.
5. Climate change is happening without doubt and Pope Francis has been very outspoken on this subject. At a practical level it means that even more care needs to be taken in the selection, location and ongoing support needed when planting. Much can be made of the fact that each tree removes 10-40 Kgs of CO₂ from the atmosphere every year.
6. Tree planting helps combat the problem of heat sinks which are areas where heat collects because of limited air currents or heat attracting surfaces, a serious issue especially in cities. Trees are a lot cheaper than air conditioning and use no electricity.
7. Water tanks made of metal, concrete or plastic and connected to church roofs for extra supply can be used to gravity feed trees and save on water bills while storing an emergency supply - another useful and related parish environmental project.
8. Although several of the trees mentioned do not need huge amounts of extra compost it is a good practice to encourage composting as it uses up food and vegetation waste that can add nutrients to a vegetable garden.
9. Create an avenue, copse, spinney or grove of some sort that could be a growing station of the tree site.
10. *Polyphagus Shothole Borer Beetle (PSHB) (Eawallacea sp)* is an ambrosia beetle detected in our country and is a problem that can end in the tree dying. Coast Coral Tree (*Erythrina caffra*), Forest Elder (*Nuxia floribunda*), Cape Beech (*Rapanea melanophloeos*) are vulnerable to this beetle, Close monitoring and management of these trees is essential. arboriculture.info@capetown.gov.za

Suggestions from Patrick Dowling St Joseph's Kommetjie and Bernadette Crewe-Brown ADCT Creation Care Coordinator

PRAYER FOR TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

Lord, may this tree grow to have deep roots and spreading branches, and may it be fruitful in season. May this tree be a home to many creatures and a blessing to the community of creation. May we remember to care for it, to water and tend it, and may it teach us about our dependence on trees, and on you.

Creator God, you planted in Eden a Garden and placed us within the garden to serve and preserve it. Forgive us where we have turned the beautiful variety of creation into infertile deserts. Sow within us once again the seeds of our calling to be good stewards of this created world. May we know our dependence upon you and upon your creation, and through our work and worship may all the trees of field and forest be set free to sing your praise once more. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever. Amen.

We would encourage every parish to please mark its tree with either a plaque, painted stone or wooden sign to show that it is a Jubilee Year 2025 Tree.

Spread the love!



If you or your parish would like to sponsor a tree for a disadvantaged parish, please contact CCT Coordinator Aisling Foley at coordinator@caritas.capetown or Ph: 069 1264841.