

CAPE DAISY



Dimorphotheca pluvialis

Cape Daisy/Reënblommetjie

PLANT TYPE: BI/ANNUAL

SA DISTRIBUTION: NORTHERN CAPE, WESTERN CAPE

SOIL TYPE: SANDY, LOAM

FLOWERING SEASON: SPRING, WINTER

PH: ACID, NEUTRAL

FLOWER COLOUR: WHITE

ASPECT: FULL SUN

GARDENING SKILL: EASY

As winter slowly begins to loosen its grip and the promise of spring hovers in the air, the veld of the Western Cape awakens with brilliant splashes of color. One of the most eye-catching heralds of this seasonal shift is *Dimorphotheca pluvialis*, commonly known as the **Cape Daisy** or **Reënblommetjie**. Flowering in late winter and early spring—particularly August—this cheerful daisy is a reminder of the resilience and beauty of the fynbos biome.

REËNBLOMMETJIE



Characteristics

Dimorphotheca pluvialis is a fast-growing annual daisy that forms a low-growing carpet of flowers, typically reaching 20–40 cm in height. Its distinctive **white or cream-colored petals** with contrasting **purple undersides** open wide in full sunlight and close again when it's cloudy or rainy—a fascinating trait that gives the plant its Afrikaans common name - *Reënblommetjie*.

It thrives in **open, sunny areas** with **well-drained, sandy soils**, and blooms from **late winter into early spring** (July to September). While short-lived, its mass flowering display leaves a lasting impact, especially when planted in large numbers or allowed to self-seed in naturalistic settings.

The Cape Daisy is a key part of the **Cape floral kingdom's annual bloom**, contributing to the iconic wildflower displays seen across the Western and Southern Cape regions.

CAPE DAISY



Why the Cape Daisy?

Outeniquasbosch Wildlife Village is deeply committed to restoring and celebrating the natural heritage of the Garden Route, and *Dimorphotheca pluvialis* is a perfect fit for this ethos. Here's why:

- **Locally Indigenous:** Naturally found along the southern Cape coastal belt, it integrates seamlessly into the estate's fynbos and renosterveld vegetation types.
- **Low Maintenance:** Once sown, these hardy annuals require little care and flourish in disturbed or open areas with minimal water.
- **Pollinator Friendly:** The bright flowers are rich in nectar and pollen, attracting bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.
- **Excellent for Rehabilitation:** A great pioneer species for revegetating disturbed soil, such as along roadsides, pathways, or bare patches in open veld.
- **Seasonal Beauty:** Offers an early spring splash of colour, creating a showy display that signals the shift in seasons.