

KAROO BOER-BEAN



Schotia afra

Karoo boer-bean/Karoohuilboerboon

PLANT TYPE: TREE

SA DISTRIBUTION: EASTERN CAPE, WESTERN CAPE

SOIL TYPE: SANDY, LOAM

FLOWERING SEASON: LATE SUMMER, AUTUMN

PH: ACID, NEUTRAL

FLOWER COLOUR: RED, PINK

ASPECT: FULL SUN

February is a month of heat, long days, and gardens that need to pull their weight. Enter *Schotia afra*, commonly known as the **Karoo Boer-bean**.

This tough yet beautiful indigenous tree is a true South African survivor, naturally occurring in dry regions and perfectly suited to waterwise, low-maintenance landscapes. It may not shout for attention, but once you notice it, you'll wonder why it isn't planted more often.

KAROOHUILBOERBOON



Characteristics

Schotia afra is a small to medium-sized **evergreen tree** with a dense, rounded canopy that provides welcome shade during hot summer months. Its dark green, leathery leaves are paired and glossy, giving the tree a neat and attractive appearance year-round.

In late summer to autumn, the tree produces clusters of **deep pink to reddish** flowers. These blooms are rich in nectar and quietly draw in birds, bees, and other pollinators—nature's own garden party, no invitation required. The flowers are followed by hard, woody seed pods, adding further visual interest.

This species is **slow-growing** but **extremely hardy**. It tolerates drought, wind, poor soils, and coastal conditions, making it ideal for the Garden Route and similar climates. Once established, it requires very little watering and minimal upkeep.

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Why The Karoo boer-bean?

Schotia afra is an excellent choice for sustainable landscaping. Its **low water requirements** align perfectly with waterwise gardening principles, while its ability to thrive in challenging conditions reduces the need for fertilizers and intensive care.

From an ecological perspective, it plays an important role in **supporting local biodiversity**. The nectar-rich flowers feed pollinators and birds, while the dense canopy offers shelter for small wildlife.

For homeowners and estates focused on indigenous planting and **long-term resilience**, *Schotia afra* is a smart, responsible choice. It delivers shade, beauty, and ecological value—without demanding much in return. A classic case of doing more by asking less.