

CAPE HONEYSUCKLE



Tecomaria capensis

Cape Honeysuckle

PLANT TYPE: SCRAMBLER, SHRUB

SA DISTRIBUTION: EASTERN CAPE, KWAZULU-NATAL,
LIMPOPO, MPUMALANGA, WESTERN CAPE

SOIL TYPE: SANDY, LOAM

FLOWERING SEASON: SPORADIC/ALL YEAR

PH: NEUTRAL

FLOWER COLOUR: RED, YELLOW, ORANGE

ASPECT: FULL SUN, SEMI SHADE

January is a time of renewal, and what better way to start the year than by celebrating a plant that embodies vibrancy and resilience? *Tecomaria capensis*, or the Cape Honeysuckle, is a South African favorite that graces gardens with its striking blooms and ecological benefits. Whether adorning fences or filling garden beds, this indigenous shrub is a testament to the beauty and functionality of our local flora.

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Characteristics

Cape Honeysuckle is a fast-growing, adaptable plant that can be shaped to fit different landscaping needs. Its standout feature is the spectacular clusters of trumpet-shaped flowers, which bloom in vivid shades of orange, red, yellow, and even salmon. These blooms, which peak in summer, are a magnet for pollinators such as sunbirds, bees, and butterflies, making the plant an integral part of any biodiverse garden.

The foliage of *Tecomaria capensis* is equally appealing, with glossy, dark green leaves that provide a lush, textured backdrop to the striking flowers. The plant can grow up to 2–3 meters tall and wide, depending on how it is pruned. While it thrives in full sun, it tolerates partial shade, and its preference for well-draining soil makes it a hardy choice for gardens in the Western Cape. Cape Honeysuckle is also remarkably adaptable, withstanding coastal winds, light frost, and periods of drought once it is well established.

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Why the Cape Honeysuckle?

The Cape Honeysuckle is an excellent choice for Plant of the Month in January due to its vibrant, summer-blooming flowers and its adaptability to local conditions.

As the Garden Route experiences its warmest months, the Cape Honeysuckle flourishes, adding bursts of orange, red, or yellow blooms to the landscape. Its long flowering period, from late spring through summer, provides consistent color when many other plants are past their peak. This makes it a standout choice for brightening up gardens during the heat of summer.

Additionally, the Cape Honeysuckle thrives in the region's climate, making it an ideal candidate for water-wise landscaping. Its drought tolerance and minimal care requirements are perfect for low-maintenance gardens, which is important for homeowners in Outeniquasbosch.