

BLUE PLUMBAGO



Plumbago auriculata

Blue Plumbago/Blousyselbos

PLANT TYPE: SCRAMBLER, SHRUB

SA DISTRIBUTION: EASTERN CAPE, FREE STATE, GAUTENG, KWAZULU-NATAL,
MPUMALANGA, NORTH WEST, WESTERN CAPE

SOIL TYPE: LOAM

FLOWERING SEASON: EARLY SUMMER, LATE SUMMER

PH: NEUTRAL

FLOWER COLOUR: BLUE, WHITE

ASPECT: FULL SUN, MORNING SUN, AFTERNOON SUN (SEMI SHADE)

March is the perfect time to celebrate the **Plumbago auriculata**, a versatile and vibrant climber that brings a splash of sky-blue to gardens across the Garden Route. Known for its resilience and stunning flower clusters, this plant is a favorite among homeowners looking to add colour, texture, and a touch of tropical charm to their outdoor spaces.

BLOUSYSELBOS



Characteristics

Plumbago auriculata is a vigorous, evergreen shrub that can reach **1.5 to 3 meters high and wide**. Its loose, spreading growth habit makes it versatile; it can be left free-growing, trained as an informal hedge, or encouraged to climb over fences and walls for a natural look.

The plant is notable for its **sky-blue flowers**, each with a sticky calyx for better grip while scrambling. Flowering begins in spring and lasts through autumn, especially with light pruning and watering in dry periods. Its glossy, light-green leaves stay attractive year-round in frost-free areas.

Plumbago thrives in **full sun** and tolerates **partial shade**. Once established, it is drought-tolerant and ideal for waterwise gardens. It prefers **well-drained soil** and benefits from pruning for better shape, denser growth, and more blooms.

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Why The Blue Plumbago?

Plumbago auriculata is a fantastic choice for gardeners who want maximum impact with minimal fuss. Its long flowering season adds consistent colour to the garden, while its **fast growth** makes it ideal for quickly covering bare walls, softening boundary fences, or filling open spaces in new gardens.

From an ecological perspective, the flowers are rich in nectar and highly attractive to butterflies, bees, and other pollinators, contributing to a healthier and more vibrant garden ecosystem. This makes plumbago a valuable addition to **pollinator-friendly** and nature-inspired landscapes.

Practically speaking, it's a forgiving plant. It copes well with coastal conditions, periods of drought, and regular pruning — perfect for homeowners seeking a **resilient, low-maintenance** plant that still looks lush and inviting.