

# LARGE SPURFLOWER



***Plectranthus ecklonii***

***Large Spurflower/Tall Spurflower***

PLANT TYPE: PERENNIAL, SHRUB  
SA DISTRIBUTION: EASTERN CAPE, KWAZULU-NATAL,  
MPUMALANGA, WESTERN CAPE  
SOIL TYPE: SANDY, LOAM  
FLOWERING SEASON: AUTUMN  
PH: ACID, NEUTRAL  
FLOWER COLOUR: BLUE, WHITE, PINK, PURPLE  
ASPECT: SHADE, MORNING SUN

As autumn settles in and the cooler mornings become more noticeable at **Outeniquasbosch Wildlife Village**, one plant continues to brighten up shady corners with its beautiful, soft flower spikes — *Plectranthus ecklonii*, also known as the **Large Spurflower**. This hardy, indigenous shrub is not only a visual delight but also a vital source of nectar for bees and butterflies when many other plants are resting.

# TALL SPURFLOWER



## Characteristics

*Plectranthus ecklonii* is a fast-growing, evergreen shrub that typically reaches a height of 1.5 to 2 meters. It forms a bushy habit with soft, mid-green, slightly aromatic leaves. The most striking feature is its **tall flower spikes** that appear from late summer to early winter, producing masses of **purple, violet, pink or white flowers**—depending on the cultivar or natural variation. The blooms are rich in nectar and draw in bees, butterflies, and even sunbirds, adding movement and life to the cooler garden.

This species thrives in **light shade to semi-shade**, making it an ideal choice for woodland gardens or under the canopy of larger trees. It prefers well-drained soil and benefits from mulching to retain moisture, especially during dry spells. While tolerant of light frost, it flourishes best in frost-free coastal regions like Outeniquasbosch.

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## Why the Tall Spurflower?

*Plectranthus ecklonii* is not only beautiful but also ecologically functional and perfectly suited to the local climate and landscape of **Outeniquasbosch Wildlife Village**.

**Shade-tolerant:** It thrives in the semi-shaded conditions of forest edges, under tree canopies, or alongside north-facing walls—making it a valuable option for areas where sun-loving species may struggle.

**Seasonal interest:** Blooming well into autumn and early winter, it provides a late-season food source for pollinators such as bees and butterflies, supporting biodiversity as other floral resources dwindle.

**Low maintenance:** Once established, it requires minimal care and copes well with the Western Cape's seasonal rainfall patterns.

**Wildlife-friendly:** The nectar-rich flowers attract a variety of insects, adding movement and life to the garden and contributing to the estate's ecological health.

**Water-wise:** With climate-conscious gardening at the heart of Outeniquasbosch's landscaping vision, *Plectranthus ecklonii* offers a reliable, water-efficient choice that doesn't sacrifice visual impact.