

SUGARBUSH



Protea repens

Sugarbush

SA DISTRIBUTION: EC, WC
SOIL TYPE: SANDY, CLAY, LOAM
FLOWERING SEASON: SPORADIC/ALL YEAR
PH: ACID, NEUTRAL
FLOWER COLOUR: RED, WHITE, PINK, CREAM
ASPECT: FULL SUN

For October, Outeniquasbosch Wildlife Village proudly highlights *Protea repens*, commonly known as the Sugarbush. This beautiful and resilient plant, with its rich cultural heritage and ecological importance, is an ideal choice for our plant of the month.

SUGARBUSH



Characteristics

Protea repens is a robust, evergreen shrub that typically grows between 1.5 to 3 meters tall, with a sprawling, bushy form. Its leathery green leaves are long and narrow, providing a hardy structure that can withstand the tough fynbos conditions. However, the plant's real showstopper is its flower. The Sugarbush produces large, cup-shaped flower heads that range in color from white to deep crimson, making them a stunning focal point in any landscape.

These flowers, which bloom from late autumn to early summer, are not only visually striking but also practical. They secrete copious amounts of nectar, once harvested by early settlers to make sugar-based syrups. The abundance of nectar also attracts a variety of pollinators, especially sugarbirds, which thrive on this sweet source of energy.

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Why the Sugarbush?

Protea repens, or the Sugarbush, is the perfect choice for plant of the month in October, as this is when its stunning blooms reach their peak.

The Sugarbush is well-adapted to the local environment, thriving in well-drained, acidic soils while requiring minimal maintenance. Its resilience and hardiness make it an excellent choice for rehabilitation projects within Outeniquasbosch, where it helps stabilize soil and restore natural habitats.

The Sugarbush's ability to thrive in various conditions and its role in supporting pollinators make it an exemplary representative of the fynbos ecosystem. By highlighting *Protea repens* this month, we celebrate not just its beauty but also its ecological significance, emphasizing our commitment to preserving and appreciating the unique plant life that flourishes at Outeniquasbosch Wildlife Village.