

SEPTEMBER BUSH



Polygala myrtifolia **September bush**

SA DISTRIBUTION: EC, KZN, WC
SOIL TYPE: SANDY, LOAM
FLOWERING SEASON: SPRING, SPORADIC/ALL YEAR
PH: ACID, NEUTRAL
ASPECT: FULL SUN, MORNING SUN

For September, Outeniquasbosch Wildlife Village proudly highlights *Polygala myrtifolia*, commonly known as the September bush. This beautiful and versatile shrub captures the essence of spring in the Garden Route and deserves recognition as our plant of the month.

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Characteristics

The September bush is a hardy, evergreen shrub that can grow between 1 to 3 meters in height, with dense foliage and an attractive, rounded shape. Its small, glossy, dark green leaves resemble those of the myrtle tree, which is reflected in its species name, *myrtifolia*. One of the plant's most striking features is its showy purple or pink flowers, which bloom throughout the year but peak in the spring months, particularly in September, giving the plant its common name.

The flowers are unique and eye-catching, resembling butterflies with wing-like petals and a central keel, often attracting pollinators like bees, butterflies, and birds. These blooms are followed by small, balloon-like seed capsules that add further ornamental interest.

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Why the September Bush?

The September bush stands out as a worthy choice for plant of the month for several reasons. Firstly, its vibrant spring bloom is a welcome sight after the cold winter months, symbolizing new beginnings and the renewal of nature. Its long flowering period and low maintenance make it an ideal choice for gardens, providing year-round color and enhancing the visual appeal of both private and communal landscapes within Outeniquasbosch.

From an ecological perspective, *Polygala myrtifolia* plays a vital role in supporting local wildlife, especially as a source of nectar for pollinators. The presence of pollinators is essential to maintaining the biodiversity that makes Outeniquasbosch special. Its adaptability to local conditions also makes it a prime candidate for rehabilitating disturbed areas, where it can quickly establish and help restore the natural balance of the ecosystem.