

YELLOW PINCUSHION



Leucospermum conocarpodendron Yellow Pincushion/Goudboom

PLANT TYPE: SHRUB, TREE
SA DISTRIBUTION: WESTERN CAPE
SOIL TYPE: SANDY
FLOWERING SEASON: SPRING, EARLY SUMMER
PH: ACID
FLOWER COLOUR: YELLOW
ASPECT: FULL SUN

Spring has arrived in the Western Cape, bringing with it one of nature's most spectacular displays of colour. Among the many plants that brighten the fynbos during this time of year, the **Yellow Pincushion** (*Leucospermum conocarpodendron*) is particularly striking.

A member of the Protea family, this beautiful indigenous shrub can grow into a small tree and is known for its abundance of bright yellow, pincushion-shaped flowers. Flowering from late winter through spring and into early summer, September is the perfect time to appreciate this remarkable species.

GOUDBOOM



Characteristics

Yellow Pincushion is a large, evergreen shrub that can develop into a **small tree**, with attractive grey-green foliage and a naturally rounded, spreading form.

During late winter, spring, and early summer, the plant produces large, **bright yellow** pincushion-shaped flowers that create a striking display and attract sunbirds, Cape Sugarbirds, bees, and other pollinators.

It typically grows between three and five meters in height and can **spread up to six meters**, making it well suited as a feature plant or for creating natural screening in larger gardens.

Like many fynbos species, it is adapted to fire and has a fascinating relationship with ants, which collect and store its seeds underground, protecting them from fire and allowing new plants to emerge following a suitable burn.

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OUTENIQUASBOSCH WILDLIFE VILLAGE

Why The Yellow Pincushion?

The Yellow Pincushion reminds us that the beauty of fynbos goes far beyond its colourful flowers. Each species forms part of an intricate ecological system involving plants, animals, insects and natural processes such as fire.

Its relationship with sunbirds, sugarbirds, ants and fire is a wonderful example of how interconnected our natural environment is. The plant provides nectar for birds and insects, while ants help ensure that its next generation survives.

It also highlights the importance of protecting our remaining natural vegetation. The **Cape Floristic Region** is recognised as one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots, with an extraordinary number of plant species found nowhere else on Earth.

For us at Outeniquasbosch, this is an important reminder of why our rehabilitation areas and natural veld should be protected. These areas are not simply undeveloped pieces of land — they are **living ecosystems** that provide habitat and food for wildlife and preserve a part of our region's natural heritage.

So, as we enjoy the arrival of spring and the beautiful colours appearing throughout the landscape, take a moment to appreciate the remarkable plants around us.

The Yellow Pincushion may be just one species, but its story is a perfect example of the fascinating relationships that make our fynbos so special.