PLANT OF THE MONTH

LANDSCAPING DEPARTMENT

WILD ROSEMARY



Eriocephalus africanus

Wild Rosemary/Kapokbos

PLANT TYPE: SHRUB
SA DISTRIBUTION: EASTERN CAPE, NORTHERN CAPE, WESTERN CAPE
SOIL TYPE: SANDY, CLAY, LOAM
FLOWERING SEASON: AUTUMN, WINTER, SPORADIC/ALL YEAR
PH: ACID, ALKALINE, NEUTRAL
FLOWER COLOUR: WHITE
ASPECT: FULL SUN, MORNING SUN (SEMI SHADE), AFTERNOON SUN (SEMI SHADE)

Wild Rosemary, *Eriocephalus africanus*, is a beautiful and hardy indigenous shrub that brings the soft, natural character of the Cape landscape into the garden. Despite its common name, it is **not a true rosemary**, but its fine, aromatic leaves have a similar appearance and fragrance. With its silvery-grey foliage and delicate white flowers, Wild Rosemary is a wonderful choice for creating a natural, textured garden while supporting the biodiversity that makes Outeniquasbosch such a special place.

OUTENIQUASBOSCH WILDLIFE VILLAGE

PLANT OF THE MONTH

LANDSCAPING DEPARTMENT

KAPOKBOS



Characteristics

Wild Rosemary is an evergreen, drought-tolerant shrub that is well suited to South Africa's dry conditions. It typically grows into a neat, rounded shrub, with fine, narrow leaves that give the plant its distinctive soft **grey-green appearance**. The leaves are aromatic when touched or crushed, adding another sensory element to the garden.

During its flowering season, Wild Rosemary produces masses of small, delicate **white flowers**, often with touches of purple or pink. These flowers attract a variety of pollinating insects, making the plant valuable for supporting biodiversity. After flowering, the **fluffy white seed heads** create an attractive feature and give the shrub a soft, almost woolly appearance, which has contributed to some of its other common names.

Its hardy nature makes Wild Rosemary particularly useful in natural gardens, fynbos-inspired planting and rehabilitation areas. Once established, it **requires relatively little water** and can cope well with dry periods, while its soft foliage provides a beautiful contrast to bolder plants such as aloes, proteas and other indigenous shrubs.

OUTENIQUASBOSCH WILDLIFE VILLAGE

PLANT OF THE MONTH

LANDSCAPING DEPARTMENT

WILD ROSEMARY



Why The Wild Rosemary?

Wild Rosemary is an excellent example of a plant that is both beautiful and practical. Its soft silvery foliage provides colour and interest throughout the year, while its flowers add seasonal beauty and provide a valuable food source for pollinating insects.

It works particularly well when planted in groups or incorporated into natural bush clumps, where its fine texture can soften the landscape and **create a more natural transition** between larger shrubs, grasses and flowering groundcovers.

At Outeniquasbosch, plants such as Wild Rosemary help us create gardens that connect with the surrounding natural environment rather than compete with it. By choosing locally appropriate indigenous species, we can create attractive gardens that are adapted to our climate, require less water once established and contribute to a healthier, more biodiverse landscape.

For October, as the landscape comes alive with spring growth and colour, Wild Rosemary is a wonderful reminder that some of the most understated plants can make the biggest contribution. **Soft, hardy, fragrant** and full of character, it is a valuable addition to any indigenous garden and a perfect fit for the natural landscape of Outeniquasbosch.