

INTERNATIONAL Plant Appreciation Day

CELEBRATED ANNUALLY ON 13 APRIL



DID YOU KNOW?

The Western Cape is home to the smallest of the world's six floral kingdoms, the Core Cape Subregion (previously known as the Cape Floral Kingdom), which contains approximately 9 300 plant species, more than the whole of Europe.



The Core Cape Subregion comprises less than **0.05%** of the earth's land surface, yet harbours **3% or 4%** of the world's species.



Almost **70%** of its species are endemic, which means it is found nowhere else on Earth.



PAMPER YOUR PLANTS

A FEW TIPS FOR HEALTHY PLANTS AND GARDENS:



Get the right plant. Indigenous plants are hardy, even in times of drought. They generally need little care or maintenance and preserve our natural ecosystems. They attract birds, insects and other wildlife and some can be used for medicinal purposes.



Let there be (not too much) light! Plants need different levels of light. Make sure how much shade or full sun your plant needs and place it accordingly.



Change is bad. Plants are sensitive to change so be consistent with them. If they are doing fine – don't change anything. If you need to move a plant, do so gradually so it gets used to its new location first.



Cut the dead stuff. To keep leaves growing, you should trim dead ends. Hardwood plants should be cut back annually.



Don't over-water your plants. This is one of the most common mistakes beginners make. Find out what the proper watering requirements for your plants are as some plants need very little water, others more.



Expand coverage in your garden by making your own cuttings from hardwood plants. Let the cuttings root first before planting them out in the garden.



Create healthy soil by using mulch obtained from your own garden by making use of garden clippings (including lawn clippings), leaves and bark. It helps to retain moisture and add nutrients to the soil.



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