Everybody in the south-western Cape will agree that this past summer was an exceptionally brutal one - especially on plants. Once again the Southern Peninsula was faced with water restrictions, which were most unwelcome considering the gale force winds and the baking hot days. Exotic plants that normally would be considered unsuitable for fynbos plants because of the gale force winds and the sun and wind. There are a number of really tough shrubs that grow locally along the Peninsula coast. Many of these attract birds and, because of the dense habit of the shrubs, are also used by birds for nesting. The best shrubs are the candlewood (Pterocelastrus tricuspidatus), Rhus crenata, B. lucida, bastard saffron (Cassine peragua and C. maritima) and the popular campmor bush (Tarchonanthus camphoratus). You should time your planting too as this also determines whether they are going to survive or not. Autumn is definitely the best season as it is cool and the winter rains allow the plants to settle before the growing season begins in spring.

Certain of the ericas and proteas may need a slightly acidic soil. In this case it is a must to mix the garden soil with Kirstenbosch Fynbos Mix, which is sold only at the Garden Centre.

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