
Small and medium-sized trees for small gardens

The size that a tree grows to often depends on its environment, e.g. some species that can reach 15 or 20m in a forest remain small bushy trees when growing in exposed coastal bush. So remember that on a site that has rich soil, protection from the wind and ample water, trees will generally grow faster and taller. The species listed below have been chosen with exposed, coastal 'Western Cape' conditions in mind.

Small trees 3-10m

- Brachylaena discolor (4-10)
- Brachylaena elliptica (3-4)
- Buddleja saligna (3-7)
- Calpurnia aurea (3-5)
- Canthium inerme (3-10)
- Cassine peragua (3-6m to 10)
- Clausena anisata (3-5m to 10m)
- Clerodendron glabrum (3-6m to 10m)
- Coddia rudis (2-4m)
- Cussonia paniculata (3-5m)
- Cussonia spicata (3-10m)
- Dais cotinifolia 93-7 to 13m)
- Diospyros whyteana (3-7m)
- Dodonaea viscosa var angustifolia (2-5m)
- Dodonaea viscosa var viscosa (3-5m to 10m)
- Dombeya rotundifolia (4-5m to 8m)
- Dovyalis caffra (3-5m to 8m)
- Ensete ventricosum (4-6m to 12m)
- Erythrophysa alata (3-4m)
- Euclea crispa (1-2m shrub 3-8m tree)
- Euclea natalensis (2-12m)
- Euclea racemosa (1-6m)
- Euclea undulata (1-7m)
- Faurea speciosa (4-7m)
- Ficus burtt-davyi (to 5m)
- Gonioma kamassi (5-6m to 10m)
- Grewia occidentalis (to 6m)
- Greyia sutherlandii (3-7m)
- Halleria lucida (2-3m to 12m)
- Heteromorpha arborescens (2-3-7m)
- Heteropyxis natalensis (5-7m)
- Hibiscus tiliaceus (3-6m)
- Indigofera frutescens (3-6m)
- Kraussia floribunda (2-6m)
- Leucosidea sericea (3-7m)
- Loxostylis alata (3-6m)
- Maytenus acuminata (3-8m to 15m)
- Maytenus oleoides (2-4m)
- Maytenus undata 93-10m)
- Metrosideros angustifolia (2-5m to 7m)
- Noltea africana (1-4m)
- Nuxia floribunda (3-10m to 15m)
- Ochna natalitia (2-10m)
- Olea exasperata (1-8m)
- Pavetta lanceolata (2-4m to 7m)
- Peltophorum africanum (5-10m)
- Phoenix reclinata (3-6m to 10m)
- Podocarpus elongatus (3-6m)
- Psychotria capensis (2-7m)
- Rhamnus prinoides (3-7m)
- Rhus see Searsia*
- Rothmannia globosa (4-7m to 15m)
- Salix hirsuta (to 4m)
- Schefflera umbellifera (3-5m to 10m)
- Searsia angustifolia (2-4m)
- Searsia dentata (2-6m)
- Searsia incisa (1-4m)
- Searsia laevigata (1-3m to 4m)
- Searsia lancea (5-8m)
- Searsia leptodictya (3-4m to 8m)
- Searsia pendulina (4-10m)
- Sideroxylon inerme (to 10m)
- Sparrmannia africana (4-7m)
- Strelitzia nicolai 93-6m to 10m)
- Syzygium pondoense (1-3m)
- Tarchonanthus camphoratus (4-9m)
- Tarchonanthus littoralis (3-5m)
- Tarchonanthus trilobus (5-8m)
- Terminalia phanerophlebia (to 6m)
- Thespesia acutiloba (3-4m to 6m)
- Vangueria infausta (3-7m)
- Vepris lanceolata (4-5m to 20m)
- Widdringtonia cedarbergensis (5-7m to 20m)
- Zanthoxylum capense (4-7m to 10m)

Shrubs that make good small trees

Burchellia bubalina (3-5m)
Diospyros dichrophylla (2-13m)
Diospyros lycioides (2-7m)
Diospyros simii (2-5m)
Phylica buxifolia (1-4m)
Podalyria calyprata (2-4m)
Psoralea pinnata (3-4m)
Searsia crenata (1-5m)
Searsia lucida (3-4m to 7m)

Medium to large trees 5-15m

Apodytes dimidiata (4-5m to 20m)
Curtisia dentata (6-12m to 20m)
Erythrina latissima (5-8m)
Erythrina lysistemon (6-10m)
Faurea saligna (7-10m)
Kiggelaria africana (4-13m)
Mimusops caffra (to 15m)
Mimusops obovata (8-15m to 20m)
Olea capensis (2-12m)
Olea europaea ssp. africana (3-14m)
Podocarpus latifolius (2-30m)
Rapanea melanophloeos (4-10m to 20m)
Rothmannia capensis (5-12m up to 20m)
Salix mucronata (4-12)
Virgilia divaricata (5-13m)
Virgilia oroboides (5-13m)
Warburgia salutaris (5-10m to 20m)

Ferns

Cyathea dregei (3-5m to 7m)

Cycads

Encephalartos altensteinii (4-7m)
Encephalartos lebomboensis (3-4m)
Encephalartos natalensis (3-4m)
Encephalartos transvenosus (5-8m)
Encephalartos woodii x transvenosus (4-8m)

Succulents

Aloe barberae (=Aloe bainesii) (5-10m to 18m)

Proteaceae

Leucadendron argenteum (5-7m)
Leucospermum conocarpodendron (3-5m)
Protea caffra (3-4m to 7m)
Protea nitida (3-4m to 7m)

Getting started: quick-growing, wind-breaking, shade-giving pioneer trees for a new garden

Brachylaena discolor
Brachylaena elliptica
Dodonaea viscosa var. angustifolia
Dodonaea viscosa var. viscosa
Kiggelaria africana
Leucadendron argenteum

Searsia lancea
Searsia pendulina
Tarchonanthus camphoratus
Tarchonanthus littoralis
Virgilia divaricata
Virgilia oroboides