

Threatened Medicinal Plants in SA's Summer Rainfall Trade

Guardians of healing

In South Africa, the conservation status of all plant species are evaluated using the [Red List of South African Plants](#) under the Threatened Species Programme, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The categories and assessment criteria for these plant species are based on those of the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#). The IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria are intended to be an easily and widely understood system for classifying species at high risk of global extinction. This document will focus on the conservation status categories below.

Critically Endangered (CR)

- the best available evidence indicates that it meets at least one of the five IUCN criteria for Critically Endangered, indicating that the species is facing an extremely high risk of extinction.

Endangered (EN)

- the best available evidence indicates that it meets at least one of the five IUCN criteria for Endangered, indicating that the species is facing a very high risk of extinction.

Vulnerable (VN)

- the best available evidence indicates that it meets at least one of the five IUCN criteria for Vulnerable, indicating that the species is facing a high risk of extinction.

Near Threatened (NT)

- available evidence indicates that it nearly meets any of the IUCN criteria for Vulnerable and is likely to become at risk of extinction in future.

Data Deficient (DD)

- taxonomic problems hinder the distribution range and habitat from being well defined, so that an assessment of risk of extinction is not possible.

There has never been a more important time for South Africans to take ownership of our natural wonders – especially our incredible plant life.

The Botanical Society of South Africa (BotSoc) offers you the opportunity to be part of the solution to our biodiversity challenges across the country. Whether you are a citizen scientist, environmental expert, or simply a nature enthusiast, join our community of plant lovers as we work together to protect our indigenous plant heritage for future generations.

What do we do at BotSoc?

Know

Learn about South Africa's diverse indigenous plant heritage

Grow

Plant indigenous plants and watch them become a home for life

Protect

Conserve our incredible, but threatened, ecosystems

Enjoy

Get into wild spaces to experience our beautiful environment

 : www.botanicalsociety.org.za
























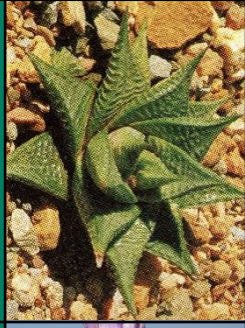











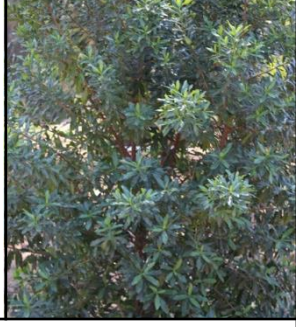







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 @BotSocSA

Over 2000 documented medicinal plant species are utilized or traded in South Africa, mostly harvested from natural habitats often in communal- or private land. These harvested plants are widely used and sold in South African markets annually. Despite studies detailing species, sources, volumes, harvesting techniques, and impact on traders, historical legislation and interventions in South Africa have needed to be more effective in conserving medicinal plant species, regulating wildlife trade, and involving communities in the trade and sustainable use of these plants.



This pamphlet highlights commonly traded medicinal plants in the summer rainfall regions of the country, notably the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga provinces. The featured plants are predominantly threatened due to overharvesting. Identifying the specific regions where these plants are most utilized promote their conservation in natural habitats.

<p>Giant minister EN</p> <p><i>Alepidea amatymbica</i></p> <p> Coughs, colds, flu (EC, KZN, LP, MP)</p> <p> Over-exploitation for the traditional medicine trade</p>		<p>Anthill saffron NT</p> <p><i>Elaeodendron transvaalense</i></p> <p> Skin rash (Gau); stomach ailments, fever, blood strengthener (KZN)</p> <p> Threatened by harvesting of bark for medicinal use</p>		<p>Stinkwood EN</p> <p><i>Ocotea bullata</i></p> <p> Headaches, urinary problems, body odours (KZN)</p> <p> Timber extraction and bark harvesting for the traditional medicine trade</p>	
<p>Climbing onion VU</p> <p><i>Bowiea volubilis</i></p> <p> Facilitate delivery, treat headache, infertility (KZN)</p> <p> Over-exploitation for the traditional medicine trade</p>		<p>Zebra haworthia VU</p> <p><i>Haworthiopsis attenuata</i></p> <p> Stomach ailments (EC)</p> <p> Unsustainable exploitation for traditional medicinal and horticultural trade, and habitat loss.</p>		<p>Natal ginger CR</p> <p><i>Siphonochilus aethiopicus</i></p> <p> Respiratory ailments (KZN, LP, MP)</p> <p> Overharvesting of underground rhizomes for medicinal purposes</p>	
<p>Assegai tree NT</p> <p><i>Curtisia dentata</i></p> <p> Stomach ailments, blood strengthener (KZN); heartwater in cattle (EC)</p> <p> Timber extraction and bark harvesting for the traditional medicine trade</p>		<p>Swati haworthia VU</p> <p><i>Haworthiopsis limifolia</i></p> <p> Stomach ailments (KZN)</p> <p> Unsustainable exploitation for traditional medicinal and horticultural trade</p>		<p>Grass cycad VU</p> <p><i>Stageria eriopus</i></p> <p> Headaches, high blood pressure (KZN)</p> <p> Over-exploitation for the traditional medicine trade</p>	
<p>Satin squill DDT</p> <p><i>Drimia elata</i></p> <p> Gynecological ailments, blood-related ailments (LP)</p> <p> No data available</p>		<p>Blouberglelie NT</p> <p><i>Merwillia plumbea</i></p> <p> Stomach ailments (Gau); female fertility, potency (KZN); skin rash (babies) (LP); boils and sores (MP)</p> <p> Over-exploitation for the traditional medicine trade</p>		<p>Pepper-bark tree NT</p> <p><i>Warburgia salutaris</i></p> <p> Respiratory ailments (Gau, KZNLP, MP); headaches, malaria, STD's, toothache (KZN)</p> <p> Over-exploitation for the traditional medicine trade</p>	
<p>Red squill NT</p> <p><i>Drimia sanguinea</i></p> <p> Male impotence (LP)</p> <p> Over-exploitation for the traditional medicine trade</p>		<p>Gingerbeer-root EN</p> <p><i>Mondia whitei</i></p> <p> Increase appetite, stomach-ache, purgative (KZN)</p> <p> Harvesting for traditional medicine and habitat loss</p>		<p>Link to references and image credit: https://sanbiorgza-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/e_sitoe_sanbi_org_za/EZGQsdaOn55KuAVu8daz3akBCoj1mA7Niej6toRwtEGnuQ?e=68XH5N</p>  <p>BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA</p> <p><i>Know, grow, protect, and enjoy South Africa's indigenous plants</i></p>	