



# Top 40

# Far Flung Flora



# Plants for Pollinators

A selection of the best plants for pollinators from the Southern Hemisphere



**List Curated by Thomas McBride**

From research data collected and collated at the National Botanic Garden of Wales



NB: Butterflies and Moths are not studied at the NBGW so any data on nectar plants beneficial for them is taken from Butterfly Conservation





# The Southern Hemisphere



The Southern Hemisphere includes all countries below the equator. As such, those countries are the furthest from the UK and tend to have more exotic and unusual native species. Many of these species cannot be grown in the UK, but in slightly more temperate regions, some species will thrive here and be of great benefit to our native pollinators. One such example is *Verbena bonariensis*, native to South America, which is a big hit with our native butterfly and bumblebee species. The Southern Hemisphere contains a lower percentage of land than the northern Hemisphere so the areas included are most of South America (particularly Chile, Argentina, Ecuador and Peru), Southern Africa (particularly South Africa) and Oceania (Particularly Australia and New Zealand).

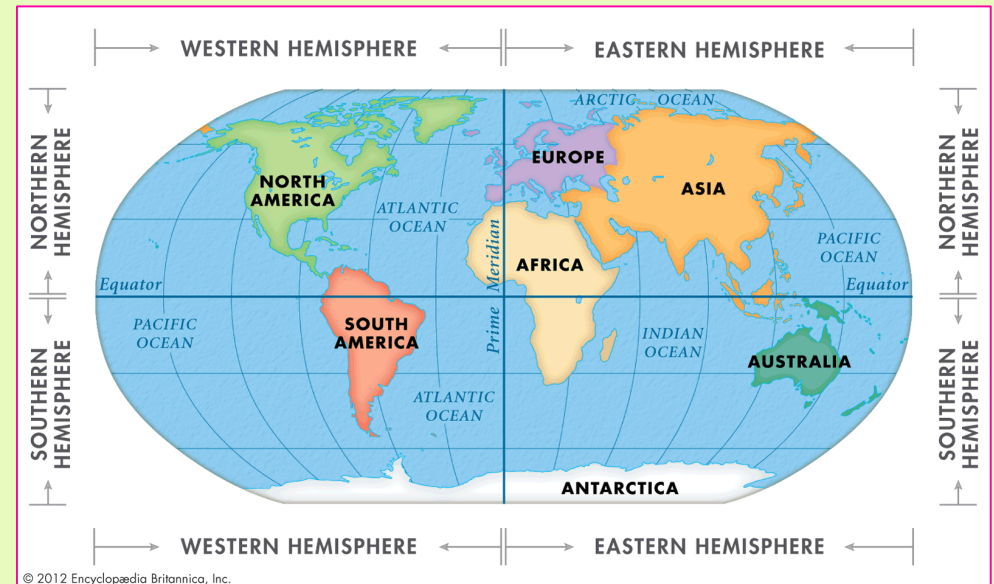


*Verbena bonariensis*



*Tropaeolum majus*

A large proportion of the plants in this list are fully hardy in the UK but some are only half-hardy. Half-hardy annuals may be planted out in the spring and will flourish. Half-hardy perennials or shrubs may need to be grown in pots and moved indoors during the winter months or grown in a very sheltered location. The plants are grouped by Continent rather than a full alphabetical list.



# Guide to using these pages:

## Map

Maps depict the native area of the plant (in green)  
They also show areas the plant is naturalised (in purple)

All maps shown are derived from 'Plants of the World Online'; courtesy of Kew Gardens

Flowering Period (this is when it is good for pollinators!)

Plant Family

Growing habit and mature size of the plant

Latin Binomial Name

*Carpobrotus edulis*

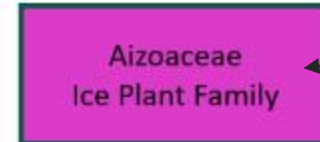
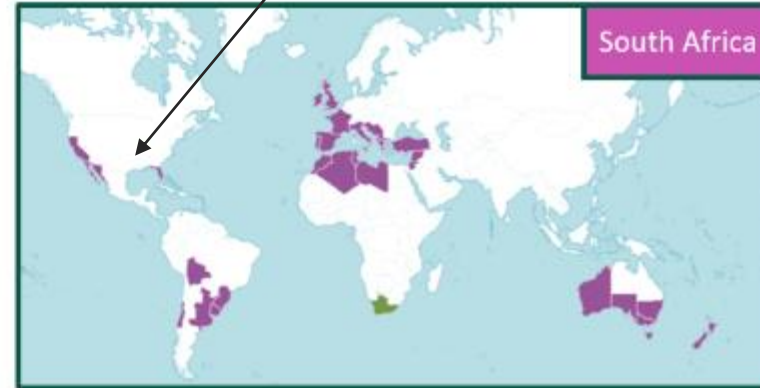
Common English Name

Hottentot-fig, Ice Plant

Photograph of the plant in flower



Insect groups known to favour the nectar of this plant

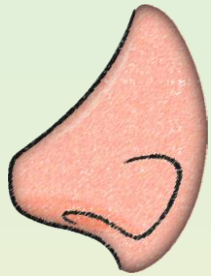


Useful knowledge or warnings about the plant

RHS AGM cultivars of this species (or a related species occasionally)

# Key to these Pages

Additional information on these garden plants



The flowers and/or leaves have a Pleasant scent

This plant would only be suitable for meadow-style planting



Plant is often used in traditional Herbal Remedies



The plant has edible parts that are commonly eaten or used in cooking



## Warnings



Plant tissue is highly toxic if ingested



Sap may cause irritation (Wash hands after touching or avoid touching)

# Temperature

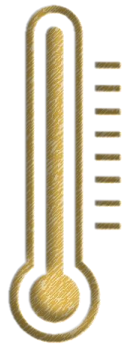
Some of the plants listed in our Top 200 are not fully hardy in all or some parts of the United Kingdom.

Plants without a thermometer symbol are fully hardy in the severest UK Winter; equating to **H5** or hardier.

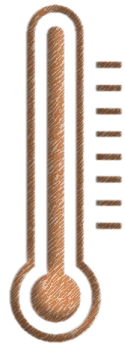
Plants with a coloured thermometer symbol are hardy to varying degrees as follows:



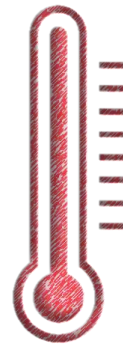
Almost Hardy  
**(H4)**



Half-Hardy  
**(H3)**



Not Frost Hardy  
**(H2)**



Not Hardy  
**(H1)**

## RHS Hardiness Scale

<b>H1a</b>	-	<b>Above 15°C</b>
<b>H1b</b>	-	<b>Minimum 10°C</b>
<b>H1c</b>	-	<b>Minimum 5°C</b>
<b>H2</b>	-	<b>Minimum 1°C</b>
<b>H3</b>	-	<b>Minimum -5°C</b>
<b>H4</b>	-	<b>Minimum -10°C</b>
<b>H5</b>	-	<b>Minimum -15°C</b>

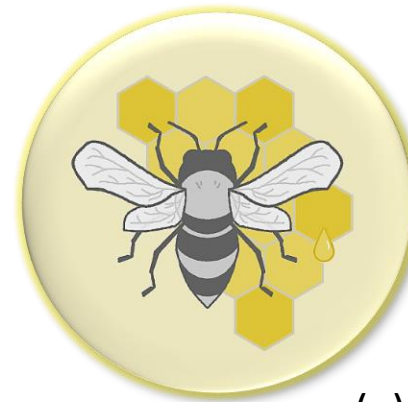
# Pollinators

Our data on pollinators has been collected from studies spanning over a decade. Pollinator symbols appear when plants are proven to be good nectar plants for certain insects.

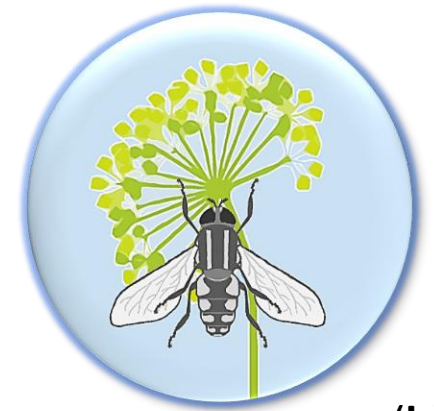
It should be noted that all bee and hoverfly data is ours but lepidoptera data is taken from Butterfly Conservation.

Our data spans a wide range of different insect species. For simplicity, these species have been condensed into six easy icons to represent them:

- |               |                                    |                  |
|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| a) Honeybees  | c) Bumblebees                      | e) Moths         |
| b) Hoverflies | d) Butterflies<br>(Includes Moths) | f) Solitary Bees |



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

# *Agapanthus praecox*

## African-lily



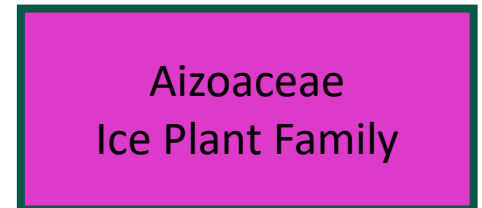
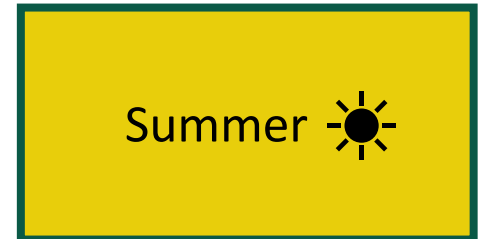
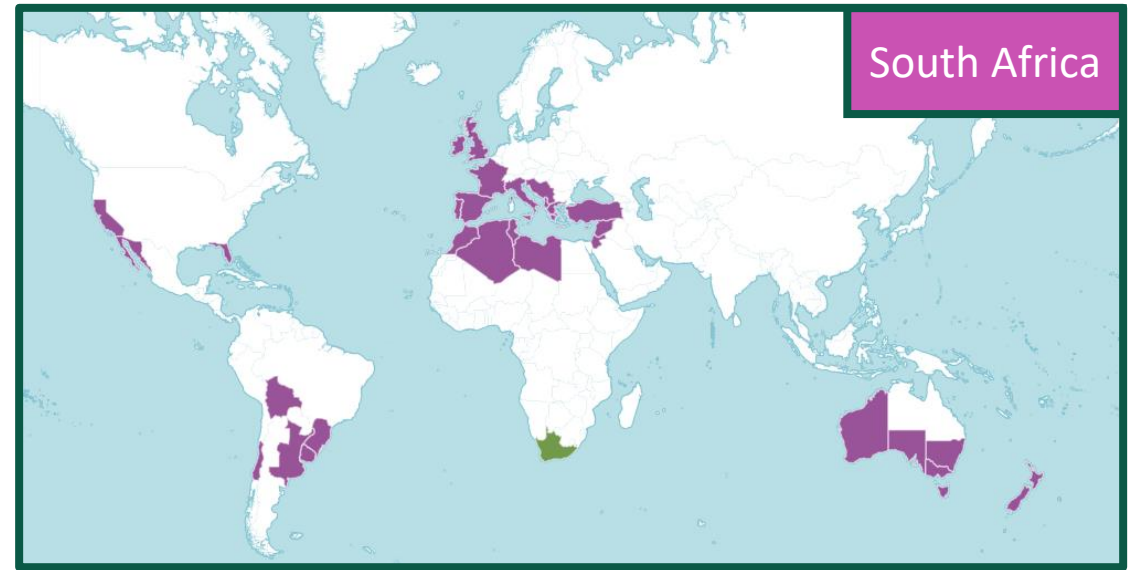
Midsummer  
- Early Autumn

Amaryllidaceae  
Daffodil Family

4ft Bulbous

# *Carpobrotus edulis*

Hottentot-fig, Ice Plant





# *Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*

## Montbretia

*Crocosmia aurea* x *Crocosmia pottsii* – naturally occurring hybrid

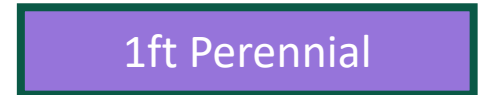
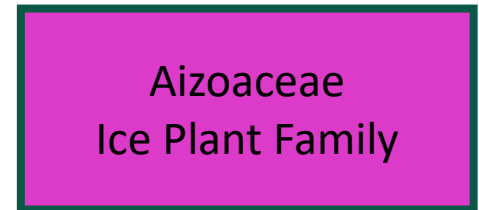


Photograph from Flickr (CC) Gabrielle Ludlow



# *Delosperma lavisiae*

## Drakensberg Ice Plant



# *Dierama pulcherrimum*

## Angel's Fishing Rod



# *Eucomis autumnalis*

## Autumn Pineapple-lily



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Thistle Garden



S. Africa

-Species-



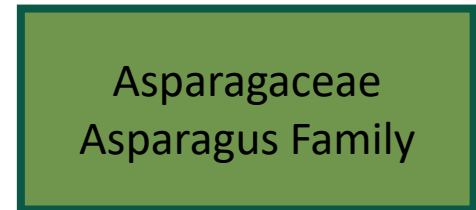
Late Summer  
- Mid Autumn

Asparagaceae  
Asparagus Family

1ft Bulbous

# *Eucomis comosa*

## Common Pineapple-lily

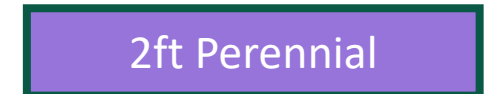
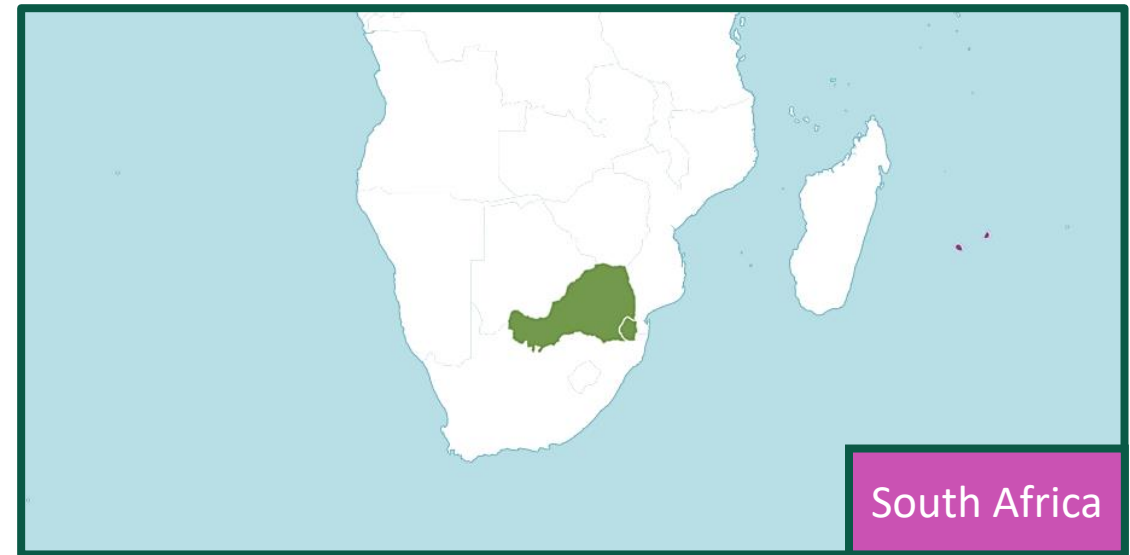


# *Gerbera jamesonii*

## Barberton Daisy



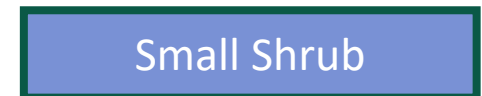
Photograph from Flickr (CC) Dinesh Valke



\* This plant can only be grown outside during the summer (above 5°C night temperatures) 8

# *Leucadendron salignum*

## Common Sunshine Conebush



\* This plant should be grown in a sheltered location  
(cannot survive below -5°C night temperatures)

# *Lobelia erinus*

## Garden Lobelia



*Photograph from Flickr (CC) Tatiana Geras*



'Cambridge Blue'  
'Purple Star'

The logo for the RHS Award of Garden Merit, which consists of a circular emblem containing a trophy and the text "RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT" around the perimeter. To the right of the emblem is a stylized tree icon.

Midsummer  
- Early Autumn

Campanulaceae  
Bellflower Family

1ft Trailing Annual



# *Ornithogalum dubium*

## Orange Star-of-Bethlehem



Midwinter  
- Mid Spring

Asparagaceae  
Asparagus Family

1ft Bulbous

\* This plant will cannot survive below -2°c night temperatures so grow in a pot, bring outside during warmer days and keep in a sheltered, sunny position

# *Oxalis versicolor*

## Candy-cane Sorrel



Photograph from Wikipedia (CC) NZFauna



- Species -

Late Summer  
- Early Winter

Oxalidaceae  
Wood-sorrel Family

1ft Bulbous

\* This plant will cannot survive below -5°C night temperatures so bring indoors during the winter period.

# *Pelargonium capitatum*

## Rose Geranium



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Arthur Chapman



South Africa

'Attar of Roses'

The RHS Award of Garden Merit logo, featuring a green trophy cup inside a white circle with the text 'RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT' and a registered trademark symbol. To the right of the logo is a white silhouette of a tree.

Summer ☀

Geraniaceae  
Cranesbill Family

Small Shrub

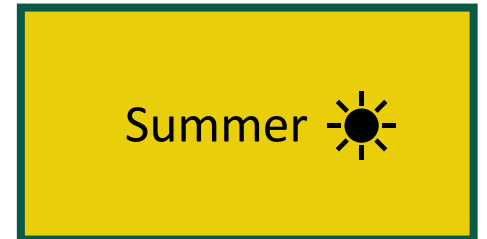
\* This plant can only be grown outside during the summer (above 5°C night temperatures) 13

# *Pelargonium citronellum*

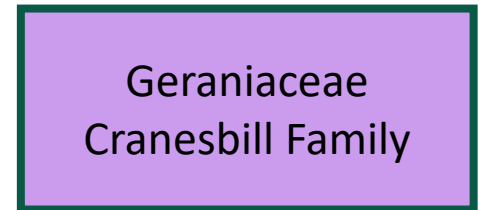
## Lemon Geranium



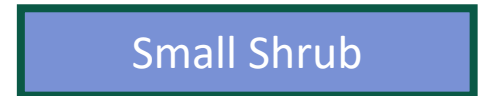
'Mabel Grey'



Summer ☀



Geraniaceae  
Cranesbill Family



Small Shrub

\* This plant can only be grown outside during the summer (above 5°C night temperatures) 14

# *Pelargonium tomentosum*

## Peppermint Geranium



Photograph from Flickr (CC) FarOutFlora



- Species -

The RHS Award of Garden Merit logo, featuring a green trophy cup inside a circular border with the text "RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT" and a registered trademark symbol. To the right of the logo is a stylized white tree icon.

Summer ☀️

Geraniaceae  
Cranesbill Family

Small Shrub

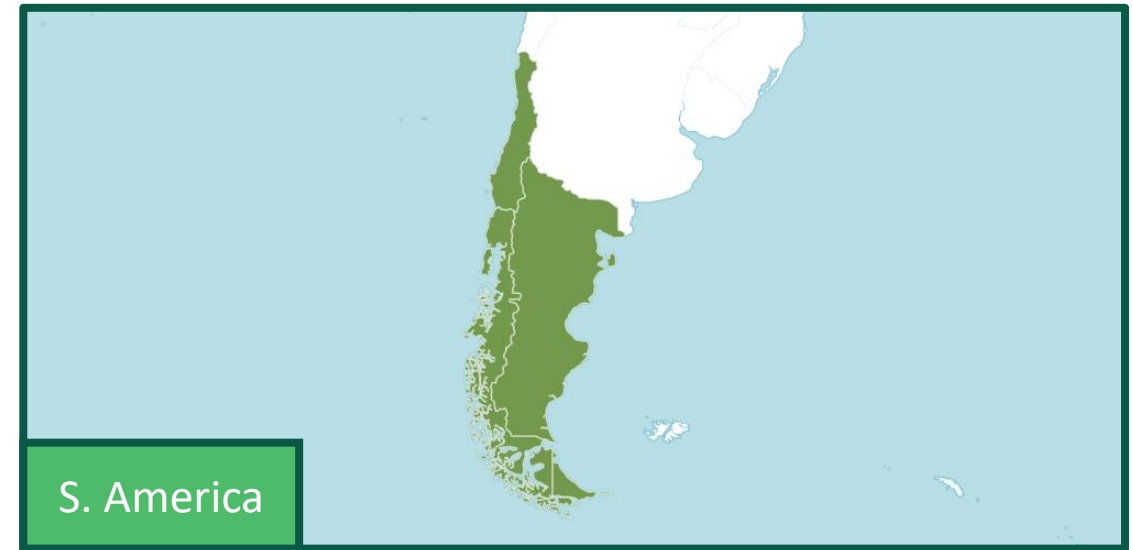
\* Will not survive a frost, only half-hardy, bring indoors in winter. Recommended pot plant.

# *Alstroemeria aurea*

## Orange Peruvian-lily



*Photograph from Flickr (CC) Jon Sullivan*



\* This plant will not survive below -10°C night temperatures, protect from very harsh winter nights

# *Alstroemeria x hybrida*

## Garden Peruvian-lily

*Complex group of hybrids of unknown parentage*



'Apollo' 'Sirius'  
'Spitfire' 'Tessa'

Late Summer  
- Mid Autumn

Alstroemeriaceae  
Peruvian-lily Family

3ft Tuberos



# *Amaranthus caudatus*

## Love-lies-bleeding



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Alwyn Ladell



None

Midsummer  
- Early Autumn

Amaranthaceae  
Amaranth Family

2ft Annual

\* Will not survive a frost, only half-hardy



# *Berberis darwinii*

## Darwin's Barberry



- Species -

*x media*

(Hybrid with *B. empetrifolia*)



Spring 

Berberidaceae  
Barberry Family

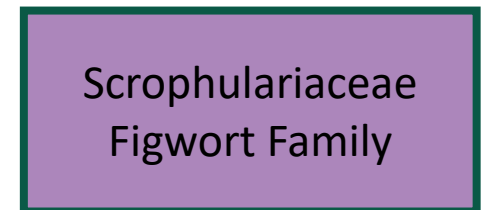
Medium Shrub

# *Buddleja globosa*

## Orange-ball Butterfly Bush

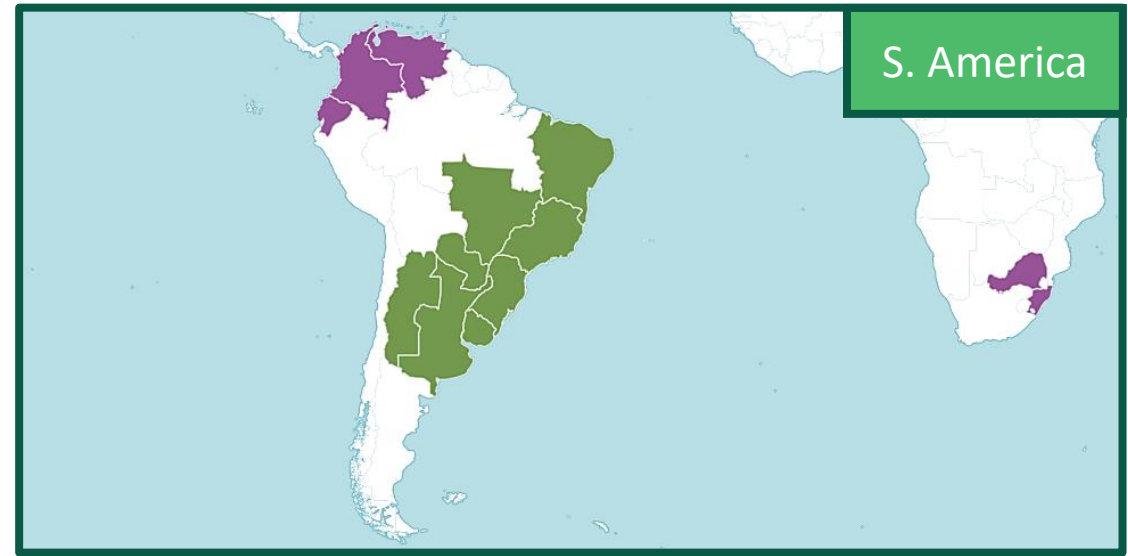


Photograph from Flickr (CC) Margrit



# *Cleome hassleriana*

## Common Spiderflower



Photograph from Wikipedia (CC) Anon.

'Helen Campbell'



Midsummer  
- Early Autumn

Cleomaceae  
Spiderflower Family

5ft Annual

# *Francoa sonchifolia*

## Common Bridalwreath



Potentially

'Pink Bouquet'

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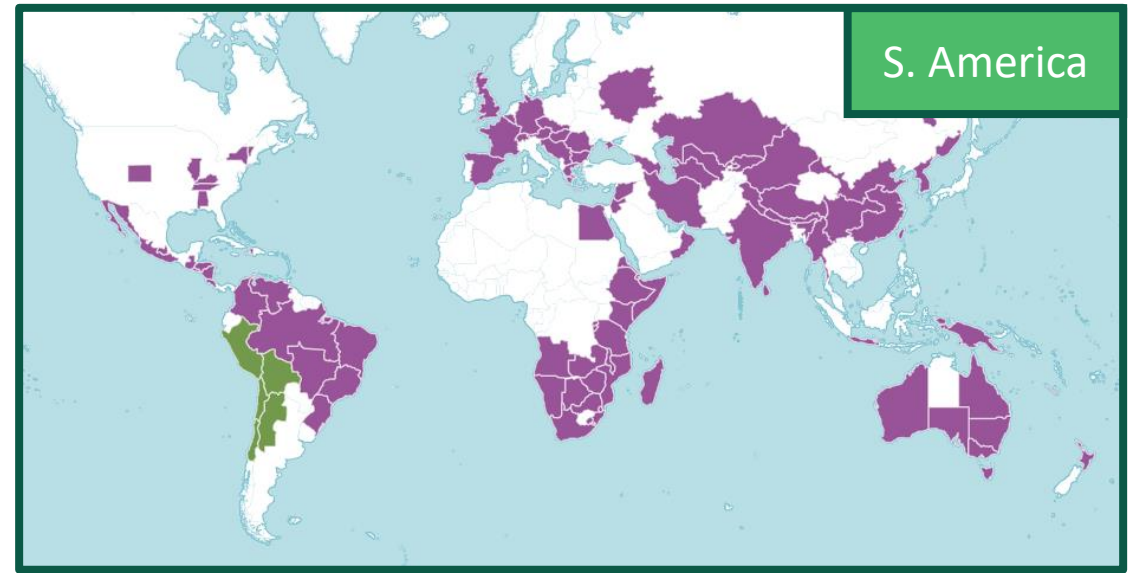
Summer ☀️

Francoaceae  
Bridalwreath Family

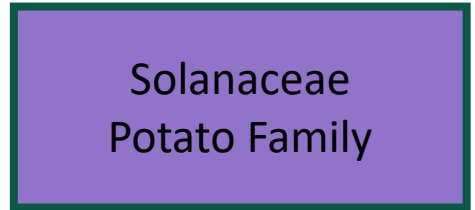
3ft Perennial

# *Nicandra physalodes*

## Shoo-fly Plant



None



# *Nicotiana alata*

## Jasmine Tobacco



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Carl Lewis



'Lime Green'



Summer ☀️

Solanaceae  
Potato Family

2ft Annual

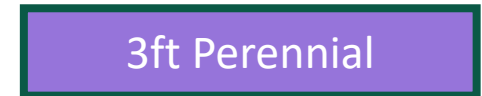
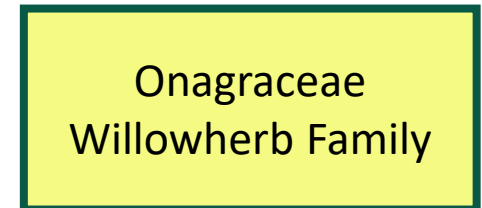
\* Will not survive a frost, only half-hardy

# *Oenothera versicolor*

## Red Evening-Primrose



*Photograph from Flickr (CC) University of California; Davis Arboretum*



# *Oxalis adenophylla*

## Chilean Sour-clover



- Species -



Late Spring  
- Early Summer

Oxalidaceae  
Wood-sorrel Family

1ft Bulbous



# *Passiflora caerulea*

## Blue Passionflower



Photograph from Flickr (CC) bvi4092



- Species -  
'Constance Elliott'



Midsummer  
- Early Autumn

Passifloraceae  
Passion Fruit Family

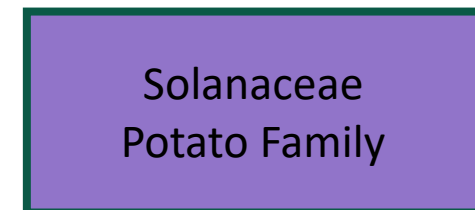
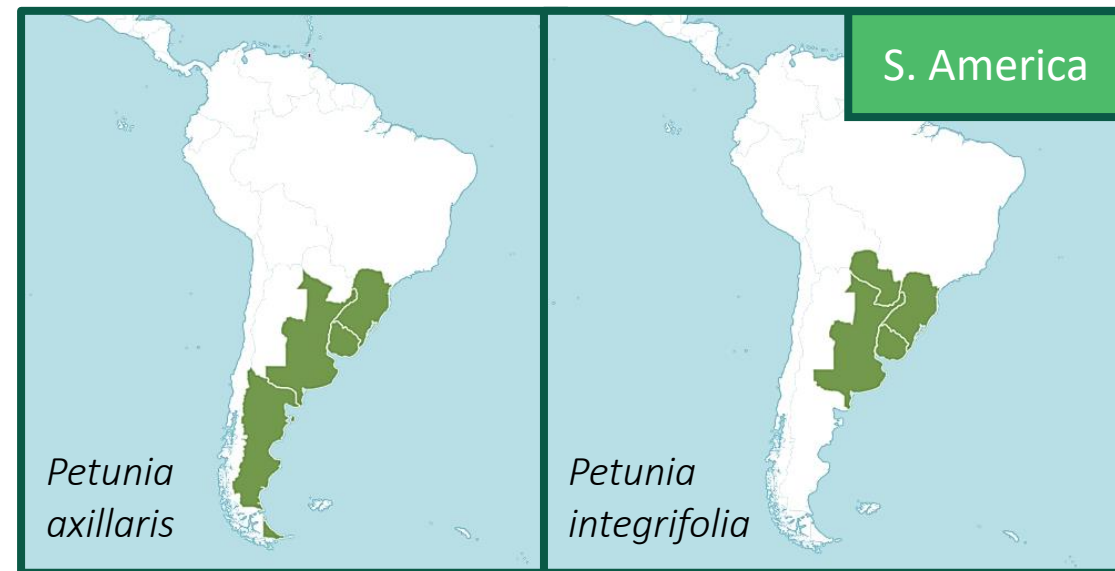
10ft+ Vine

\* This plant will not survive below -10°C night temperatures, protect from very harsh winter nights  
\*\* The fruit and flowers are edible but not commonly consumed. The leaves are poisonous when raw; containing cyanide.

# *Petunia x hybrida*

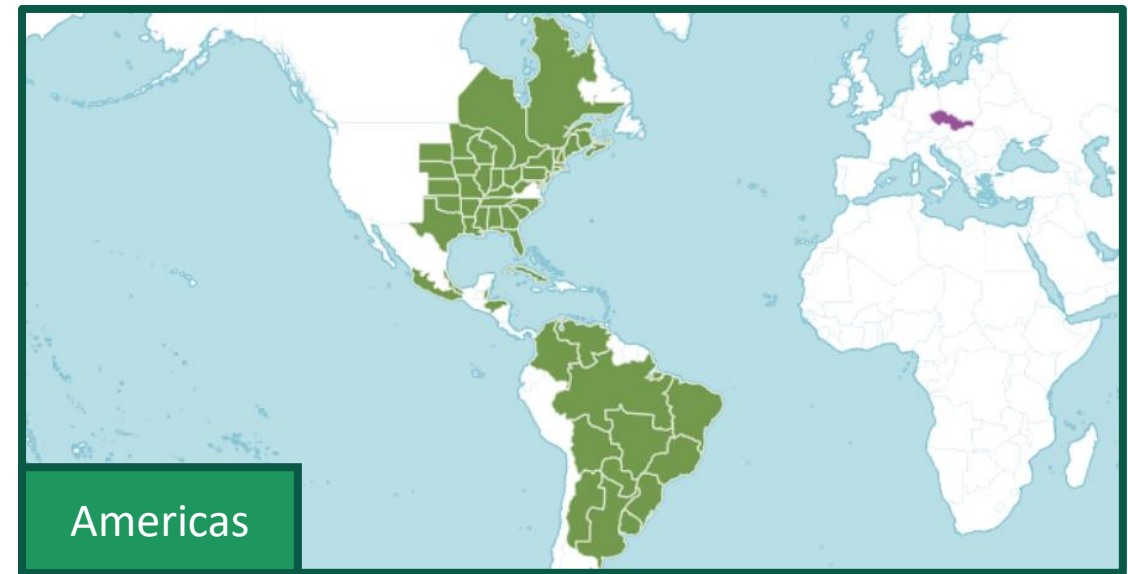
## Garden Petunia

*Petunia axillaris* x *Petunia integrifolia*



# *Pontederia cordata*

## Pickerel Weed



- Species -

Summer ☀



Pontederiaceae  
Pickerel Weed Family

4ft Aquatic Perennial

Semi-aquatic

# *Sisyrinchium striatum*

## Satin Flower



None

Summer ☀

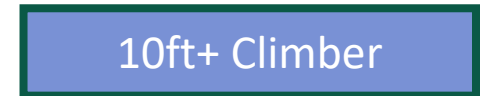
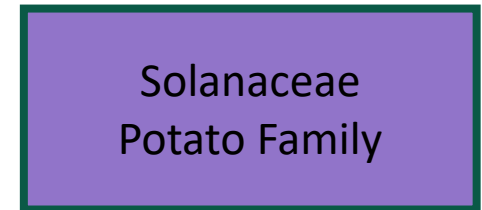
Iridaceae  
Iris Family

3ft Rhizomous



# *Solanum crispum*

Potato-vine



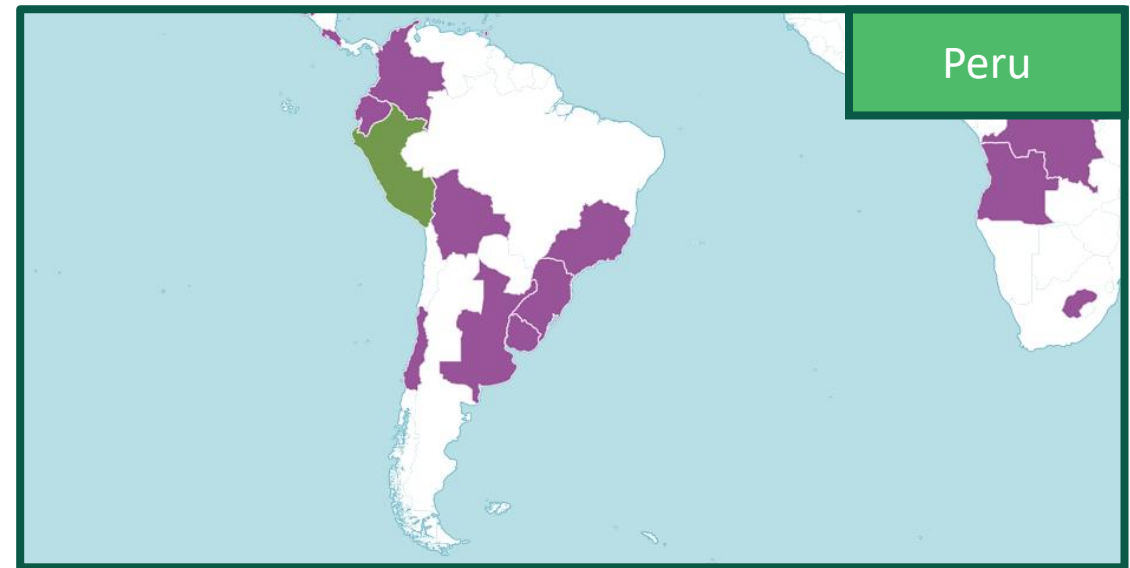
\* This plant will not survive below -10°C night temperatures, protect from very harsh winter nights

# *Tropaeolum majus*

## Garden Nasturtium



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Mayank Sharma



'Alaska series'  
'Whirlybird series'



Midsummer  
- Early Autumn

Tropaeolaceae  
Nasturtium Family

1ft Trailing Annual

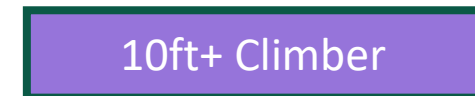
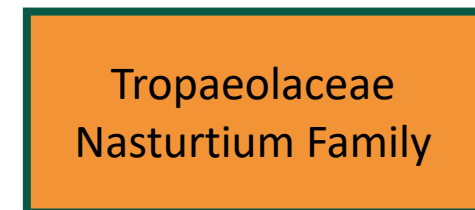
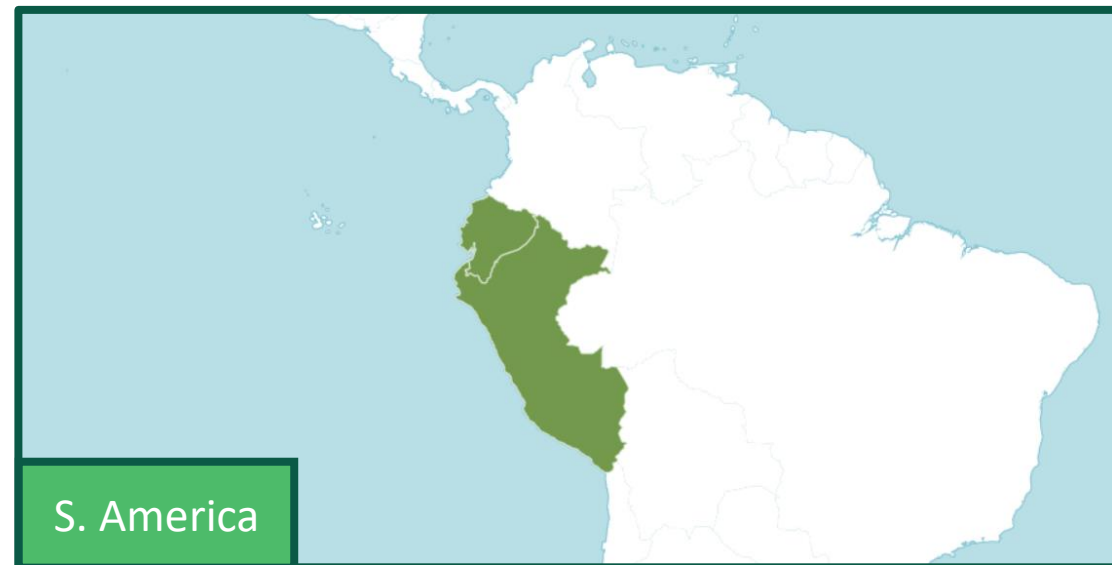
\* This plant will not survive below -5°C night temperatures

# *Tropaeolum peregrinum*

## Canary Creeper



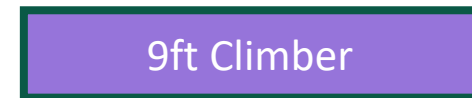
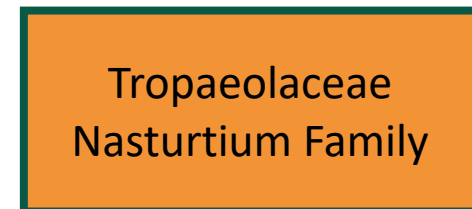
Photograph from Wikipedia (CC) Niepokój Zbigniew



\* This plant will not survive below -5°C night temperatures. Grow in a sheltered location or treat as an annual.

# *Tropaeolum speciosum*

## Flame Nasturtium





# *Verbena bonariensis*

## Purpletop Vervain



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Linda de Volder



- Species -

Midsummer  
- Mid Autumn

Verbenaceae  
Vervain Family

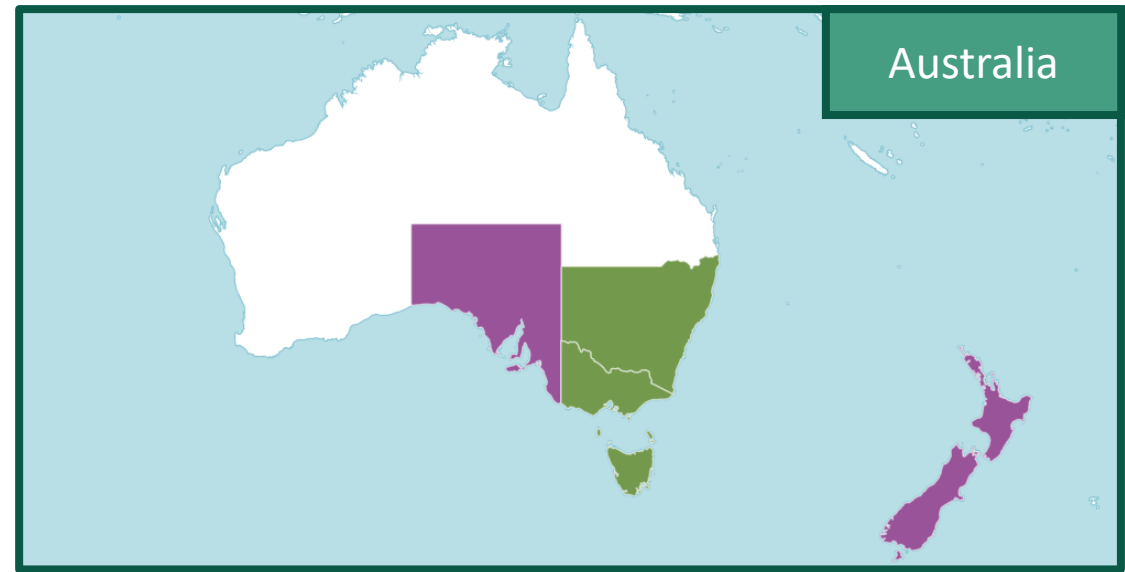
6ft Perennial

# *Acacia dealbata*

## Silver Wattle, Mimosa



Photograph from Flickr (CC) Dara L. Brown



Australia

- Species -



Late Winter  
- Early Spring

Fabaceae  
Legume Family

Large Shrub

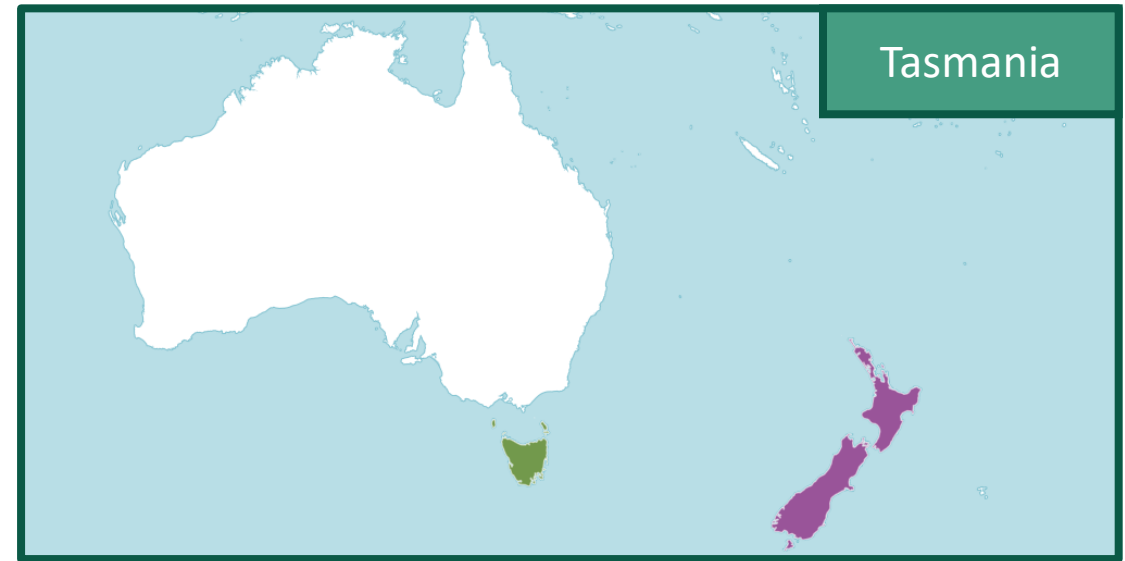
\* This plant should be grown in a sheltered location  
(cannot survive below -5°C night temperatures)

# *Eucalyptus gunnii*

## Cider Gum



Photograph from Flickr (CC) RP Seeds



- Species -

Summer ☀️

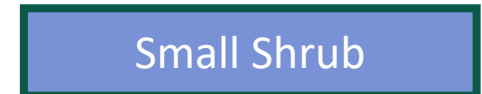
Myrtaceae  
Myrtle Family

Small Tree



# *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*

## Rosemary-leaved Grevillea

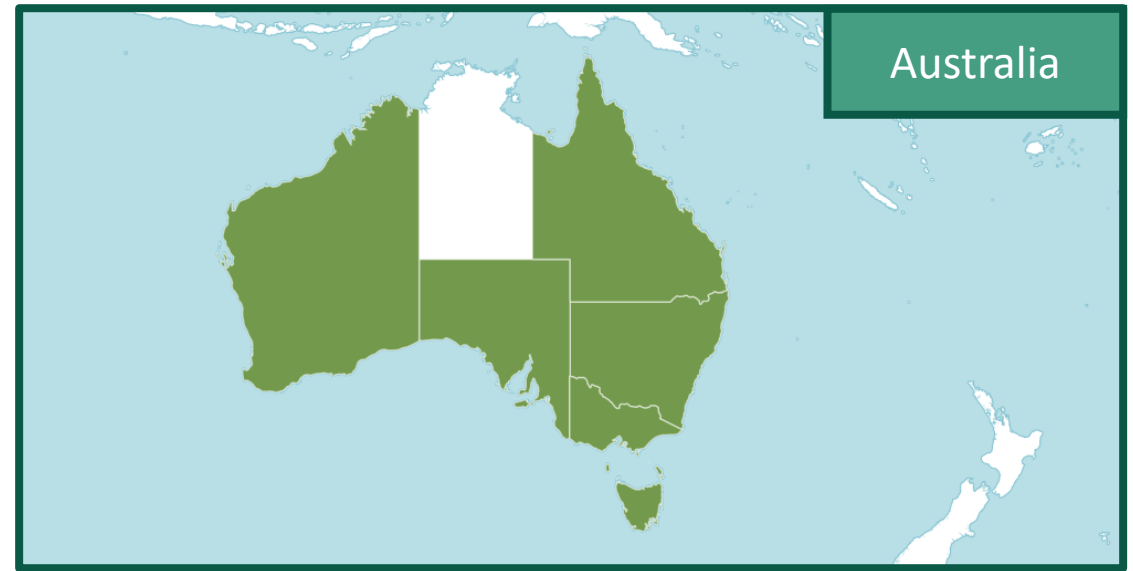


# *Pelargonium australe*

## Southern Storksbill



Photograph © Thomas McBride



Australia



'Mabel Grey'

Late Spring  
- Midsummer

Geraniaceae  
Cranesbill Family

Small Shrub

\* This plant can only be grown outside during the summer (above 5°C night temperatures)

# *Ranunculus lyallii*

## Mount Cook Buttercup



Other Alpine Ranunculus Species:

*R. calandrinoides*

*R. montanus*

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Late Spring  
- Midsummer

Ranunculaceae  
Buttercup Family

3ft Perennial