



District 410A

"Green Living"

May 2014



We Need Vision

What is a succulent?

A succulent stores water in fleshy leaves or stems and are usually found in arid or semi-arid environments with no regular rainfall. The Succulent Karoo biome is a plant kingdom that has one of the largest succulent biodiversity counts of any region on earth. It stretches from the Karoo regions of the Southern Cape and extends along the coastline and north into Namibia.

The cactus (native to the Americas) is the most well-known succulent world-wide. If you want to see the biggest succulent, you don't have to travel that far. Baobab trees (found mostly in Africa) are considered succulents because their swollen trunks are designed to store water. The **Sunland "Big Baobab" is in Modjadjiskloof in Limpopo Province** and is internationally famous for being the widest of its species in the world. This tree is carbon dated to be around 6000 years old and has even made the front page of the Wall Street Journal. When Baobabs become a 1000 years old, they begin to hollow inside and results in wonderful caverns & caves.



Inspired by Nature!

The Intaka Island Environmental Education Centre has received a major accolade by being selected as a 2014 World Design Capital project. The Eco Centre has been hailed as a real example of urban development & nature conservation successfully working together to provide innovative and sustainable solutions to development challenges & maximizing this into long term educational opportunities.

Development of Century City started in 1996 and the 8Ha pan was declared a conservation area & the adjacent 8Ha wetlands area was re-designed & constructed to perform a natural water purification system for the 7,5km of canal water on site.

Intaka (meaning bird in isiXhosa) attracted 25,000 visitors in 2013!

Garden tips for May

The shorter days and cooler temperatures call for a last burst of energy outdoors!

Take advantage of the crisp mornings and evenings for heavier work to get your garden ready for winter.

Clear out gutters & drains in winter rainfall areas. Collect fallen leaves for compost.

Plant, cut back or divide spring- and summer- flowering perennials.

Feed established bulbs with a high potash fertilizer.



Crowning Glory (part 2)

Hooks—horns of buffalo & wildebeest grow outwards. A pair of buffalo horns can measure up to 1m across & are impressive weapons!

Twists—female springbok have a less sturdy set of weaponry than males, whilst female impala don't have horns at all!

Spikes—Duikers have short, spiked horns and in some other species the horns are so small they can be hidden by a crest of hair on the top of the head. Even though these horns are small, they are used to defend territory & keep predators out. Female common duikers are hornless.

Southern African female klipspringers are hornless but their cousins in East Africa have horns.

Care for the earth

The goal of **World Biodiversity Day (22 May)** is to raise awareness about preserving endangered habitats—from islands, oceans, rivers & wetlands to forests, grasslands, deserts & mountains—to sustain bird, animal & plant diversity. Here's how :

- * Make your garden more environmentally friendly by spraying non-toxic pesticides & herbicides;
- * Create an area for wildlife with plants that grown naturally in your region;
- * Design water-wise gardens by choosing plants that need less water and grouping plants with the same water needs



DC Liz