

Plants suitable for bank stabilization

Note: Heights are approximate and can vary widely according to climate and care.

Whether you have a moderate slope or a steep bank, some form of stabilisation of the soil must take place to prevent erosion by wind or water and increase the absorption of water. The best strategy is to use a variety of plants that root at different depths, to encourage a dense web of roots to hold your soil. Mixed vegetation will absorb rainfall energy and prevent soil compaction, while the roots physically bind soil particles which improves soil structure. Foliage from above slows the speed of run-off thereby reducing erosion and increasing absorption.

Other benefits of using a variety of plant forms:

- introduction, restoration and conservation of soil nutrients
- prevention of the establishment of invasive weeds
- creation of a habitat for wildlife
- improved aesthetics

Erosion-prone terrain is often harsh and plants must be tolerant of extremes such as flooding and drought. For this reason it makes sense to plant indigenous plants from the immediate area in which you live.

Grasses often rank high for erosion control because of their spreading mat-like roots that hold soil very well. (The list below does not contain many species and expert opinion should be sought for guidance on the best indigenous grasses to use for your area and needs.)

Shrubs and *perennial ground covers* protect soil from wind, sun and downpours.

Trees can be used for larger banks and windbreaks. They will provide shade for other plants and the leaves they shed will add mulch and nutrients to the soil.

Key for height:

VS: Very small
 S: Small
 M: Medium
 L: Large
 VL: Very Large

Key for position:

FS: Full sun
 SS: Some Sun, Some Shade
 MS: Mostly Shade

TREES

Botanical name	Common name	Height	Position
Brachylaena discolor	Coastal silver-oak	S	FS/SS/MS
Brachylaena elliptica	Bitter-leaf silver-oak	S	FS/SS/MS
Buddleja saligna	False olive	M	FS
Ficus burtt-davyi	Scrambling Fig	S	FS/SS
Maytenus procumbens	Dune koko-tree	S	FS/SS/MS
Olea europaea subsp. Africana	Wild olive	S	FS
Portulacaria afra	Spekboom	VS	FS/SS

SHRUBS

Botanical name	Common name	Height	Position
Athanasia parviflora	Coulter bush	M	FS
Barleria obtusa	Forest violet	S	FS/SS
Barleria repens	Small bush violet	S	FS/SS

<i>Buddleja salviifolia</i>	Sagewood	L	FS
<i>Chrysanthemoides incana</i>	Bietou	M	FS/SS
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Bush tick berry	M	FS/SS
<i>Cineraria geifolia</i>	Cineraria	S	FS/SS
<i>Cineraria saxifraga</i>	Wild cineraria	S	FS/SS
<i>Cliffortia ferruginea</i>	Glaster	M	FS/SS
<i>Cliffortia odorata</i>	Wildewingerd	M	FS/SS
<i>Didelta carnosus</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i>	xxx	S	FS
<i>Eriocephalus africanus</i>	Wild sage	S	FS
<i>Euryops pectinatus</i>	Golden Euryops	S/M	FS
<i>Euryops virgineus</i>	Honey euryops	M	FS
<i>Felicia</i> species	<i>Felicia</i> , blue daisy	S	FS
<i>Hermannia</i> species	Doll's roses	VS/S	FS
<i>Hypoestes aristata</i>	Ribbon bush	S	FS/SS
<i>Jasminum multipartitum</i> hybrid	Wild Jasmin – Bush form	S/M	FS/SS
<i>Leonotis leonurus</i>	Lion's ear	M	FS
<i>Leonotis ocymifolia</i>	Minaret flower	M	FS
<i>Metalasia muricata</i>	White bristle bush	L	FS
<i>Morella cordifolia</i>	Dune waxberry	M	FS/SS
<i>Oftia africana</i>	Lazy bush	S	FS
<i>Passerina corymbosa</i>	Gonna bush	L/VL	FS/SS
<i>Passerina ericoides</i>	Christmas berry	M	FS/SS
<i>Passerina filiformis</i>	Bakkerbos	M/L	FS/SS
<i>Pelargonium</i> varieties	<i>Pelargonium</i>	S/M/L	FS/SS
<i>Plectranthus</i> varieties	<i>Plectranthus</i>	VS/S/M	SS/MS
<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	<i>Plumbago</i>	M/L	FS/SS
<i>Podalyria calyptata</i>	Sweetpea bush	S/M	FS
<i>Polygala fruticosa</i>	Butterfly bush	S/M	FS
<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	September bush	S/M	FS
<i>Salvia africana-lutea</i>	Beach sage	M	FS
<i>Salvia chamelaeagnea</i>	Rough blue sage	M	FS
<i>Searsia crenata</i>	Dune Crowberry	L	FS/SS
<i>Selago corymbosa</i>	Bitterblombos	S/M	FS/SS
<i>Selago thunbergii</i>	Selago	S/M	FS/SS
<i>Sutherlandia frutescens</i>	Cancer bush	M	FS
<i>Tarchonanthus camphoratus</i>	Camphor bush	L	FS/SS
<i>Tetragonia fruticosa</i>	Kinkelbossie	S	FS/SS

GROUND COVERS AND PERENNIALS

Botanical name	Common name	Height	Position
<i>Aizoon glinoides</i>		VS	FS/SS
<i>Arctotis stoechadifolia</i>	Arctotis	M	FS
<i>Arctotis</i> varieties			
<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i> varieties	Hen and chickens	S	SS
<i>Dymondia margaretae</i>		VZ	FS
<i>Gazania</i> varieties	Gazania	M	FS
<i>Geranium incanum</i>	Carpet geranium	M	FS/SS
<i>Helichrysum crispum</i>	Kooigoed	M	FS
<i>Helichrysum petiolare</i>	Kooigoed	M	FS

Hypoestes aistata	Ribbon bush	L	SS
Jasminum varieties	Wild jasmine	M	FS/SS
Justicia capensis	Businessmans bush	S	SS
Monsonia emarginata	Dysentery herb	S	FS/SS
Osteospermum varieties	Osterspermum	M	FS/SS
Pelargonium varieties	Pelargonium	S/M/L	FS/SS
Plectranthus varieties	Plectranthus	S/M/L	SS/MS
Portulacaria afra 'Prostrate'	Dwarf spekboom	S	FS/SS
Scabiosa varieties	Scabious	M/L	FS/SS

BULBS / CORMS / RHIZOMES / TUBERS / EPIGEAL BULBS

Botanical name	Common name	Height	Position
Agapanthus species	Agapanthus	S-L	FS/SS
Albuca species	Albuca	S/M/L	FS
Chlorophytum comosum	Hen and chickens	S/M	SS/MS
Crocsmia aurea	Falling stars	M	SS
Dietes bicolor	Yellow wild iris	L	FS/SS
Dietes grandiflora	Large wild Iris	L	FS/SS
Dietes iridioides	Cape iris	L	FS/SS
Hypoxis species	Yellow stars, African potato	S-M	FS/SS
Strelitzia reginae	Strelitzia	L/VL	FS/SS
Tulbaghia fragrans	Scented wild garlic	M	FS
Tulbaghia violacea	Wild garlic	S	FS
Tulbaghia violacea 'Silver Lace'	Wild garlic	S	FS
Wachendorfia thyrsiflora	Bloodroot	VL	FS
Watsonia varieties	Watsonia	M	FS

SUCCULENTS

Botanical name	Common name	Height	Position
Aizoaceae: vygie family			
Aptenia cordifolia	Baby sun rose, Brakvygie	S	FS/SS
Acrodon species	Vygie	S-M	FS
Antimonia species	Vygie	S-M	FS
Bergaranthus species	Bergaranthus	VS	FS
Carpobrotus species	Sour fig	S-M	FS
Conophytum species	Vygie	S-M	FS
Delosperma species	Ice plant	S-M	FS
Disphyma species	Vygie	S-M	FS
Dorotheanthus species	Vygie	S-M	FS
Drosanthemum species	Ice plant	S-M	FS
Gibbaeum species	Vygie	S-M	FS
Glottiphyllum species	Tongue plant	S-M	FS
Lampranthus species	Vygie	S-M	FS
Malephora species	Vygie	S-M	FS
Mesembryanthemum species	Vygie	S-M	FS
Oscularia species	Vygie	S-M	FS
Ruschia bina	Vygie sp.	S	FS
Ruschia maxima	Giant mountain vygie	M/L	FS

Ruschia species	Vygie	S-M	FS
Tetragonia decumbens	Klappiesbrak	S	FS
Tetragonia fruticosa	Kinkelbossie	S	FS
Asphodelaceae: aloe family			
Aloe africana	Uitenhage Aloe	VL	FS
Aloe ferox	Bitter aloe	VL	FS
Aloe maculata	Soap aloe	M	FS
Aloe striata	Coral aloe	M	FS
Aloe tenuior	Fence aloe	M	FS
And many more			

Bulbine species			
Bulbine abyssinica	Cat's tail	M	FS
Bulbine altissima	Bushy bulbine	M	FS
Bulbine frutescens	Rooiwortel	M	FS
Bulbine narcissifolia	Snake flower	M	FS
Bulbine natalensis	Geelkatstert	M	FS/SS/MS

Cotyledon species			
Cotyledon campanulata	Vingerplakkie	S-M	FS
Cotyledon orbiculata varieties	Pig's ear	S-M	FS
Cotyledon velutina		S-M	FS

Crassula species			
Crassula lanceolata		VS	FS/SS
Crassula multicava	Fairy crassula	S	FS/SS
Crassula pellucida		S-M	FS/SS
Crassula pellucida ssp. Brachypetala		S-M	FS/SS
Crassula pellucida ssp. Marginalis		S-M	FS/SS
Crassula spatulata		S	SS/MS
Crassula streyi	Pondoland crassula	S	SS/MS

Senecio species			
Senecio radicans	Baboon toes	VS	FS/SS
Senecio serpens	Small blue chalk sticks	VS	FS
Senecio talinoides	Blue chalk sticks	M-L	FS
Senecio crassulaeformis		VS	FS

Miscellaneous succulents			
Drimiopsis maculata	Little white soldiers	VS-S	SS/MS
Othonna capensis		S	FS/SS
Peperomia blanda	Large wild peperomia	S-M	SS
Portulacaria afra 'Prostrate'	X 'Green Carpet'	S	FS/SS

CLIMBERS AND CREEPERS			
Botanical name	Common name	Height	Position
Asystasia gangetica	creeping foxglove	S/M	SS/MS
Carissa macrocarpa	Hybrid 'Green Carpet'	S	FS/SS

Chaetacanthus setiger		S	FS/SS
Dipogon lignosus	Cape sweet pea	VS/S	FS/SS
Falkia repens	Oortjies	VS	FS/SS
Jasmine multipartitum	Wild jasmine	M	FS/SS
Pelargonium peltatum	Ivy-leaved pelargonium	S/M	FS/SS
Senecio macroglossus	Cape ivy	M	SS/MS
Senecio quinquelobus		M/L	SS/MS
Senecio talinoides		L/VL	FS/SS
Senecio tamoides	Canary creeper	L/VL	SS/MS
Tecoma capensis	Cape honeysuckle	L	FS/SS
Thunbergia alata	Black-eyed Susan	M	FS/SS

FERNS

Botanical name	Common name	Height	Position
Asparagus africanus	African asparagus	M – L	SS
Asparagus asparagoides	Smilax	M – L	SS
Asparagus densiflorus 'Mazeppa'	Asparagus fern	M – L	SS
Asparagus densiflorus 'Meyersii'	Foxtail fern	M – L	SS
Asparagus densiflorus 'Sprengeri'	Basket asparagus	M – L	SS
Asparagus macowanii	Asparagus fern	S/M	FS/SS
Asparagus setaceus	Lace or feathery fern	M – L	SS
Asparagus virgatus	Asparagus fern	S/M	FS/SS
Rumohra adiantiformis	Seven-weeks-fern	M – L	SS
Selaginella kraussiana	African clubmoss	S	SS/MS

RESTIOS, CYPERUS, GRASS

Botanical name	Common name	Height	Position
Cyperus albostriatus	Forest star sedge	M	FS/SS
Cyperus albostriatus 'Variegated'	Forest star sedge	M	FS/SS
Cyperus prolifer	Miniature papyrus	L – VL	FS
Elegia cuspidata	Blombesie	M – VL	FS
Elegia stipularis	Cushion restio	M – VL	FS
Ficinia dunensis		VS – S	FS
Ischyrolepis sieberi		L – VL	FS
Restio festuciformis	Groengasriet	M	FS
Thamnochortus cinereus	Silver reed	L – VL	FS
Thamnochortus lucens		S – L	FS
Thamnochortus nutans	Jakkelssterriet	L	FS
Thamnochortus pellucidus	Dwarf restio	L	FS

