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WEST COAST FLOWER REPORT - 2014

(Updated 16/09/2014)



For updated weather reports, you may visit the following websites:



www.yr.no

www.accuweather.com

www.windguru.com

www.fallingrain.com

www.weathersa.co.za

Flowerline - 072 938 8186



Remember that along with the flowers it is also **Whale season!** For updates on sightings or to log sightings, visit www.awhaleofaheritageroute.co.za/westcoast_whalesightingsreport.pdf !!!

NAMAQUA WEST COAST AREA

VANRHYNSDORP

LOCATION OF FLOWERS:

Onder Gifberg

TYPE OF FLOWERS:

gousblomme,tjiekeringjees

HOW MANY FLOWERS:

Fields / Plenty / Patches / **Few**

LOCATION OF FLOWERS:

Best flowers can be seen in the Niewoudtville area (Matjiesfontein en Papkuilsfontein)

TYPE OF FLOWERS:

Bolplante,katsterte,aandblomme,daisies,spogfluweeltjies

HOW MANY FLOWERS:

Fields / Plenty / **Patches** / Few

CEDERBERG AREA

CITRUSDAL

LOCATION OF FLOWERS: Marcuskraal road

TYPE OF FLOWERS: Mostly Daisies

HOW MANY FLOWERS: Fields / Plenty / **Patches** / Few

Please note that this is someone's perception, and not a guarantee.

BERGRIVIER AREA

SALDANHA AREA

SWARTLAND AREA

DARLING

The whole Darling area looking very pretty on a sunny day at present. Duckitt Nurseries reserves and Waylands particularly. Lovely fields of daisies as you go down into Groote Post. Lots of Lachenalia in Groenekloof.

LOCATION OF FLOWERS:

Darling Renosterveld Reserve (Access at top of village behind the Darling Primary School or lower down gate in Langfontein street); **also on the plot just below this reserve on Petunia Street**

Duckitt Nurseries Wildflower Reserve – farm road through reserve R307 Darling – Mamre – in front of Duckitt Nursery); the gate may be closed over weekends but visitors may drive in to see the flowers.

Waylands – farm road through reserve (R307 to Mamre) Visitors must please take care not to drive off the road in the Waylands and Duckitt Nurseries reserves as the veld is very wet and they may get stuck. **No buses.**

Along the roadsides to Mamre – pyjama bushes flowering

Tienie Versfeld Reserve (R315 Darling – Yzerfontein);

Darling Groenekloof Reserve (R315 alongside the SPCA)

Groote Post wine farm on Darling Hills Road – besides winetasting/restaurant visitors can also walk in the veld to

view the wildflowers – flower drives can be booked 2 days in advance please - R130pp kids under 12 @ R75

Min 4 people /Max 10 people

Cloof and Burgherspost Nature Drives

Cloof and Burgherspost contribute to the conservation of two important veld types: Swartland Granite Bulb Veld and Atlantis Sand Fynbos, both very endangered. In our diversified farming system, we set the conservation example for the wine industry. The Darling region is well known for its beautiful spring flowers.

Enjoy a guided game drive and encounter some of South-Africa's most renowned game and bird species including Bontebok, Eland, Red Hartebeest and Zebra while also viewing an array of delicate endangered flowers during the flower season (Aug & Sept).

Your contribution helps fund our conservation efforts of this natural heritage. Times: weekdays 10:00 or 14:00 weekends flexible

Costs R100 pp 4-6 pax/3pax R125 pp/2 pax R150 pp/1 pax R250

Advance bookings are essential – enquire with Cloof tasting room Personnel for last minute availability on weekdays or call Jacques at 084 673 5708

Wildflower Meander

Flora Group walks will take place in the Reserves in and around Darling/Yzerfontein to be confirmed with Helene Preston

Next Wednesday the group plans to do the trail at Groote Post – another new site for most of you and very interesting, beautiful granite Renosterveld.

We explore the reserves for whatever is flowering that day, also to find anything new, and to discuss anything botanical as we go along. These are gently walks, so anyone can come along.

For more information – 082 222 8135 prestons@telkomsa.net

TYPE OF FLOWERS:

Darling Renosterveld Reserve

This reserve is now good to walk through. Visitors should walk to the left when they enter at the gate, all the way down to where the bushcut area runs out. Here they can see lots of *Gladiolus carinatus* (blou pypies), *Babiana ambigua* (Bobbejaantjies), *Ixia scillaris* (Agretjies), the creeping pink vygie *Lampranthus filicaulis* Beautiful white *Spiloxene*. There are also the skilpadbessie bushes *Muraltia macropetala*, kapokbush *Eriocephalus africanus*, and lots more. Then they can cut through the bushes and walk back to the tanks along the newly cut area which is just beginning to get some flowers. The area to the right when you enter the gate is also beautiful.

On the plot just below this reserve on Petunia Street

Beautiful with a variety of bulb species coming through

Duckitt Nurseries Wildflower Reserve: masses of Blue Flax and white rain daisies with a variety of other species coming up between; rysblommetjie (*wurmbea*) flowering in the dam.



Burgherspost Small patches of rain daisies; scattered *Babiana ringens* (rotstert/rat's tail); A patch of the rare *Babiana pygmaea* (geelbobbejaantjie)

Groote Post and Darling Hills Road: The *Zantedeschia aethiopica* (arums) are in full bloom on the Darling Hills road. A variety of other veld flowers are definitely more visible including oxalis and white raindaisies. Colourful displays of orange white and purple from gate to the tasting room.

Tienie Versfeld Reserve: Starting to look up with a lot of *Spiloxene*, white *Drosera* and more.

Darling Groenekloof Reserve: Thousands of *Lachenalia* – a sight to behold.

Waylands: It has suddenly erupted into spring. There are a few *Kelkiewyns* out, and even some *G. euristigma* (*kelkiewyn*), which is really astonishing as this is very early for them. There are, of course, lots of *Drosera* (Snotrosie) as well as the beautiful big white Star (*Poublom*). The veld is still at its early stages, but is very pretty as the predominantly yellow flowers are all out in profusion.



HOW MANY FLOWERS:

Please note that this is someone's perception, and not a guarantee.

Fields / Plenty / Patches / Few

Name:

Date & Time:

Venue:

Admission:

Contact detail:

97th annual Darling Wildflower Show

19th, 20th and 21st September 9am – 5pm

Darling Sports Club

Adults R40/Children (U18) R20/Children (U12) free
/Pensioners (Friday only) R25

084 916 1111 www.darlingwildflowers.co.za

Name:

Date & Time:

Venue:

Admission:

Contact detail:

"2014 ORCHID FAIR"

19 - 21 September (Friday to Sunday only!)

Time: from 10am-5pm daily;

@ Duckitt Nurseries (not at Oudepost Farm!)

Entrance Fee: R10 Adults & R5 Scholars, R5 Pensioners

tel: 022 492 2606 fax: 022 492 2353

Email: info@duckittnurseries.com www.duckittnurseries.com

YZERFONTEIN

The Bokbaai vygie trail is currently full of colour.

A variety of colours can be seen. The route is currently the best location to view bokbaai vygies.

The Bokbaai vygie trail is now open earlier to the public as there are plenty of colours to be seen. Any visitors to the bokbaai vygie trail must please note to close the gate when entering or leaving the trail as there are wild ostriches that roam between the fields. Babianas are in abundance on the Bokbaai vygie trail this year, something not regularly seen.

LOCATION OF FLOWERS:

Purple cinerarias are currently starting to flower just outside Yzerfontein on the left hand side fields. All of Yzerfontein is still full of colour.

Gousblomme can be seen all around town, a good sign that the flowers are on their way. The schaaap Island trail is still the best place to view the flowers. Purple and yellow vygies can be seen growing in between the rocks. Yellow honger blomme, purple vygies and purple cinerarias can be found on Dassen Island drive.

TYPE OF FLOWERS:

Gousblomme, purple and yellow cigarette vygies.
Daisies (White)
Babianas (Purple)
Bokbaai vygies (orange)
Arum lilies
Cinerarias (yellow)
"Bosvygies" (Purple)
Elandsvygies

HOW MANY FLOWERS:

Fields / Plenty / Patches / Few

To stay informed of any veld walks taking place in or around Yzerfontein/Darling please contact Lubbes Loubser 072 659 6269 (weather permitted)



NAMAQUA NATIONAL PARK



Hi all

Attach please find some photos taken today (**05 September 2014**)

Rainfall, Skilpad section, Namaqua National Park:

March 2014: 14.98mm
April 2014: 7.61mm
May 2014: 16.26mm
June 2014: 86.86mm
July 2014: 52.82mm
August 2014: 25.39mm
September 2014: 0.00 (to date)

After the rains on 27, 28 August we experienced very strong, warm easterly winds, followed by some very hot days. This has affected the flowers quite a lot and the orange carpets (*Ursinia*) in particular are slowly dying off. However, Varkiesknol (*Conicosia*) are now at their peak, while Senecios, Gazanias, Malvas and a variety of other flowers are prominent. The park is still well worth a visit, particularly if you walk the hiking trails at Skilpad.

The coastal flowers are still very good with the usual variety of vygies and daisies. This is one of the best years we have seen on the parks' coast for flowers. Please note that the coast is only accessible for 4x4 vehicles.

The best is to ask around when you are in the area to find out where there are still flowers to be seen. Please note that I can only speak with authority on the park itself and close surrounds with regard to where the flowers are.

Skilpad is accessible with a normal sedan vehicle but a high ground clearance vehicle is needed for the remainder of the park. The road to Skilpad is bumpy but drivable.

Kind regards

BERNARD VAN LENTE
PARK MANAGER: NAMAQUA NATIONAL PARK
SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARKS

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.sanparks.org

Pictures taken at Skilpad on 5 September 2014:



