

## INTERESTING SNIPPET

The oil glands on buchu leaves produce an aromatic scent which deter pests.

By releasing these oils on hot days a vapour layer is formed which helps the plant with water retention, and thereby reducing excess water loss through transpiration.



Above and below: *Agathosma ovata*



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## STARKE AYRES GARDEN CENTRE INFORMATION PAMPHLET



## BUCHU



## BOTANICAL INFORMATION

**Family:** Rutaceae  
(*Calodendron*, *Coleonema*,  
*Murraya*, *Vepris* and citrus also  
belong to this family)

**Genus:** *Agathosma*

**Distribution:** *Agathosma* is native to the southern part of Africa

**Endemism:** Most *Agathosma* species are endemic to the Western Cape, occurring nowhere else in the world

## ORIGIN & USES

The local Khoi people started using the plant medicinally and called it 'buchu'.

Buchu is a compact shrub with scented leaves, flowering from autumn to spring. The essential oils of *A. crenulata* and *A. betulina* are extracted for their medicinal properties and also used to fragrant soaps and cosmetic products.

## GARDENING TIPS

- **Soil**

Plant buchu in well-drained sandy or loam soil at least 60cm deep; the pH should be between 5 and 6.5.

- **Planting**

Add a spadeful of compost and 50g Bone Meal to the soil around the plant. Make sure the planting area is not too small. Two to three months after planting are critical while the roots establish so water well during this period.

- **Watering**

Do not allow to dry out. Over-watering is also fatal; avoid waterlogging the plants by choosing the correct soil to begin with. In hot weather water two to three times a week.

- **Pots**

Most species do not do well in pots, except for *A. ovate* selections, *A. collina* and *A. glabrata*. Use a deep, large clay pot with excellent drainage and keep in partial shade during the midday heat.

## GARDENING TIPS continued...

- **Fertilizing**

Nutrifeed can be used at half strength; use two litres per plant once a week or every two weeks during active growth periods (spring and autumn). Or use Starke Ayres 3:1:5 Organic or Bounce Back, 5g sprinkled around the stem every four weeks.

- **Position**

Place in full sun, except for the high altitude species which prefer morning sun. Mulch well to keep the roots cool.

## BE WATER-WISE

*A. ovata* and *A. ovata glentana* work well in the garden. These plants are ideal for water-wise gardening as they do not require much water once established.

For more information on water-wise gardening: [www.starkeayresgc.co.za](http://www.starkeayresgc.co.za)

Contact Starke Ayres Garden Centre  
with any further questions.