

## Buchu

**Buchu belongs to the genus *Agathosma*, in the family of Rutaceae. These plants are native to the southern parts of Africa. *A. crenulata* and *A. betulina* are endemic to the Western Cape.**

Buchu is a compact shrub with scented leaves, flowering from autumn to spring. The numerous oil glands on the leaves produce an aromatic scent which deter pests. By releasing these oils on hot days a vapour layer is formed which helps with water retention, reducing excess transpiration.

Buchu is a compact shrub with scented leaves, flowering from autumn to spring. The essential oils of *Agathosma crenulata* and *Agathosma betulina* are extracted for their medicinal properties as well as to fragrant soaps and cosmetic products. The local Khoi people started using the plant medicinally and called it 'buchu'.

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

Starke Ayres Garden Centre stocks a range of buchu species.

### Helpful gardening hints:

- Plant buchu in well-drained sandy or loam soil at least 60cm deep.
  - Place in full sun, except for the high altitude species which prefer morning sun.
  - 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 2-3 times a week.
  - Visit, call or email Starke Ayres Garden Centre for specific instructions on fertilizing and further maintenance, our horticulturalists are extremely knowledgeable and always willing to help!
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