

INDIGENOUS NURSERY COLLABORATIONS

GRBG | Simply Green Nursery | Pezula Resort | Grootbos | Intaba

Nursery Structure

- Propagation
House Hardening Off and Growing Out
- Flooring, Shade Net, and Reticulation Systems
- Storage and Working Spaces
- General Layout and Design
- Size and Location
- Managerial Structures :
Labelling, Stocktake

Flow Processes

This aspect touches on the flow process that grown plants follow within the nursery landscape, from seedling to planting up. Some nurseries only grow in plugs, others into 40l trees.

Propagation

- Processes for collection and storage of materials
- Methods and Tips for propagation of different keystone species : via Seed & Cuttings
- Pathogen control
- Soil Mixes



Background

The Grootvadersbosch Conservancy Restoration team travelled across the Garden Route to visit 5 different Indigenous Plant Nurseries that range from retail, to whole sale to in-situ conservation and others solely for restoration.

Nurseries Selected

The Grootvadersbosch Conservancy Nursery will be developed to support restoration activities in the Grootvadersbosch area and surrounding regions. There will also be a 'retail' section that will allow members of the public, landowners and other organisations to purchase grown plants.

The nurseries were selected according to their goals, some supply solely retail, others whole sale and restoration .





Garden Route Botanical Garden

This nursery supplies the Garden Route Botanical Garden a Non-profit organisation in George, which is also a protected nature reserve and has 10ha of rehabilitated plantation.

- The nursery focus' on plant species Endemic to the Southern Cape,
- Indigenous medicinal and horticulturally attractive species are also grown for retail and landscaping
- Rare and Threatened flora is grown for in-stu & ex-situ conservation and display purposes
- Plants are rescued from construction and development sites are cared for and distributed through the nursery
- There is a herbarium with botanical records that support the diversity within the botanical garden and guide the horticultural growing
- Large and diverse seedbank of planted specimens to harvest from annually as sustainable source of seeds

Visit Notes :

- Greenhouse covered in plastic, with corrugated plastic roofing and shade net over roof, plastic windows can roll open for air flow. Hardening off area uses 180° sprinklers
- 2x Heated tables using under floor heating and tiles for the propagation of difficult ericaceous and proteoid species
- Hardening off tunnel has misters and is well protected for proteaceae species, and plugs of trees and shrubs to root out before planting up into bags
- Work area adjacent to propagation house with raised tables for potting up where compost is mixed
- Nursery is divided into fynbos, shade , shrubs, succulents, trees and restoration/collected plants
- Seedlings are treated with fungicide, seeds are soaked in fungicide and sprayed once germinated
- Inteligrow and multicore used to fertilise plants and foliar spray given to plugs
- Monthly stocktake is done of all areas of propagation to ensure retail nursery is well stocked





Grootbos Nursery

This nursery supplies the Grootbos private nature reserve curated gardens and trees are also used in restoration projects and for tree planting donations. An annual group of interns are used to maintain and train within the nursery

- The nursery focus' on plant species Endemic to the area as well as horticulturally adapted species for the windy coast
- There is a florellegium that represents the diversity of flora within the reserve
- The nursery is supplied by Swedbank of the reserve and surrounding conservancy farms
- The hardening off area is far away from the rest of the nursery, making transport of seedlings and maintenance tricky
- The nursery does not use fungicide or herbicide as plants need to be hardened for restoration
- The propagation house is scrubbed with swimming pool chlorine every fortnight

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Visit Notes :



- Plants for restoration are moved to hardening off area, where they are encouraged to root densely in white plug trays before being transplanted into bags or small pots.
- Horticultural and restoration training programmes are 1 year long and students are supported in continuing to work for the organisation once they graduate training.





Simply Green Nursery

This nursery supplies horticultural landscapers as well as local conservation practitioners who do restoration planting. The nursery also fosters plants that are rescued from construction sites and has active restoration sites on the same property.

- The nursery focus' on plant species Endemic to the area as well as horticulturally adapted species for the windy coast.
- There are non-indigenous flowering plant species that are non invasive and indoor plant species such as air-plants for sale
- The nursery is only open to the public one day a week - all other sales are bulk for restoration or landscaping
- All plants on the production platform are watered from a centralised dam water source, which is filled by run off from the watered plants.
- Fertiliser is applied by foliar feed, excess enters the dam system, but products used are non-toxic and in low quantities to not affect dam ecosystems

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Visit Notes :

- The main hot house for cuttings is very well lit, with a well draining compacted floor. Seedling trays are packed on the gravel . This space is shared with an external plant grower.
- Plants are only treated with fungicide if disease or fungus is detected





Pezula Nature Reserve & Eco Estate

This nursery supplies the Pezula Nature Reserve's eco estate and hotel gardens with indigenous plants. The budget is very little, and the manager uses a plant recycling method to ensure that plants are rescued and rotated through the gardens and nursery for maximum efficiency.

- The gardens has themed areas based on the hotels attractions, including a natural dam, scent and herb garden and 'wild' ecosystem walkways.
- The nursery is not open to the public, but land owners on the eco estate can contribute plants
- All plants are either propagated by seed, cutting, splitting or rescue and repotting.
- Fertiliser is made through a bokashi and composting system. All garden scraps, lawn clippings, cut branches and foliage as well as nursery off cuts are mixed with compostable kitchen scraps from the hotel.
- The hot house is made from recycled materials, has high light penetration, and parallel shade cloth doors allow for ventilation

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Intaba environmental Services

This organisation focuses on landscape rehabilitation and restoration, indigenous landscaping and plant propagation as well as community upliftment and training

- Intaba focuses on the creation of sustainable, indigenous gardens and landscapes
- Intaba has a fully functioning nursery that grows plants specifically for rehabilitation or landscaping projects using locally sourced seeds of genetic value
- Intaba has two fully trained and equipped restoration teams that are educated on the species of their area and how to correctly plants according to each site
- The nursery is divided into seeds and cuttings, hardening off and stock control and then a horticultural hardening off section as well as a seed storage area
- Each aspect of the nursery has a trained staff member responsible for a set list of tasks relevant to their section

Visit Notes :

- The nursery utilises charcoal compost from a local source to mix in to their sandy compost mix
- The species grown for restoration are grown in eco-plugs as seen below, the Intaba team has found higher success rates planting smaller plants in riparian systems than bigger plants
- Smaller plants are easier to transport and more space effective
- Species are grown according to the site requirements, projects are procured and once they are confirmed seed collections occur as per protocols and outlines by relevant authorities.
- Seed storage and documentation is the responsibility of one lady, and is checked annually for audit purposes as well as for reference of restoration success

