

Grootblaar Ruschia (*Ruschia maxima*)



Ruschia maxima is one of the largest species in its genus. It has characteristically larger leaves than most other vygies and is crowned as the giant mountain vygie.

Rating: Not Rated Yet

Price

Sales price R 16,50

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Description

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This large erect perennial shrub can spread more than 1 m. The branches are woody and tough with short internodes. It also has very large, opposite, three-sided leaves with a reddish tint on the leaf tips.

Flowers are small with purple petals with a cone of stamens. When flowering, the plant is covered in sweet-scented flowers. Flowering can take place at any time of the year, but most *Ruschia* species flower from September to November. Mature fruits of this plant are small, hard and contain 4 or 5 locules.

Distribution and habitat

Ruschia maxima occurs in the Western Cape near the coast and inland towards Clanwilliam and the Bobbejaansberge, at altitudes of 300-800 m. Many specimens have been found on north-facing slopes and they can tolerate rainfall ranging from less than 100 mm to 800 mm per year. *Ruschia maxima* can tolerate frost and fires. It is found in different habitats and grows in all kinds of soil, derived from sandstone, quartzite, clay and shale. The genus *Ruschia* is widespread in South Africa and occurs in summer rainfall regions too.

Derivation of name and historical aspects

Ruschia was named after a farmer, Mr. Ernst Rusch, of the farm Lichtenstein, near Windhoek (Namibia). There are more or less 51 species in this genus. *Ruschia* can easily be mistaken for *Lampranthus* or *Drosanthemum*, which all fall under the same family, Mesembryanthemaceae (Aizoaceae). *Lampranthus* and *Drosanthemum* have much bigger flowers and a wider colour range than *Ruschia*. *Ruschia maxima*, however, is the largest amongst the *Ruschia* species.

Visit site for more information: <http://pza.sanbi.org/ruschia-maxima>

Reviews

There are yet no reviews for this product.