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Aristida junciformis propagation

Description: Ornamental grass with small leaves and feathered seed heads in shades of green and light brown. Indigenous peoples of southern Africa. Gongoni grass can be used to soften the harsh edges. In our regulatory role, we often hear the answer, but it's just grass when involved in the development evaluation process. The ecological sector of our society clearly recognizes the importance of the trees and ecosystems in which they meet, with events such as Arbour Day and International Forest Day (United Nations initiative), but the meadows are still somewhat misunderstood. There is a view that meadows are limited to several herbs and sedges (sometimes referred to as graminoids in the scientific literature), and that the overall diversity of plants and animals is fairly limited. This article aims to address these misconceptions and provide a sense of why meadows need targeted conservation attention. The meadow ecosystem consists of two main flowering components, it is grass and forbs (this term for all non-grass, sedge, and woody species). Although herbs contribute more to the biomass of meadows, they make up only about 10 to 20% of the diversity of flower species. Durban meadows are particularly rich in species because they are spread above and below the Clof escarpment (this is a large altitudinal gap in the context of the eThekweni Municipal Area (EMA), a good example of this is Fields Hill between Pinetown and the suburb of Clough), as well as in the transition zone between the northern subtropical and southern temperate climatic zones. There are a number of species of meadows and subtypes located within the EMA. They are delineated on the basis of underlying geology, on a theoretical basis, that the known geological endemism of a number of plant species suggests that the overall floral composition of meadows, located on different geology, will differ significantly. Probably one of the most famous species of meadows in the EMA, CNA Sandstone Sourveld Grassland (CSPC) occurs in areas in and around the EMA underlain at Natal Group sandstone. They have been significantly transformed in agriculture and development, and only 14.7% of its original size remains. The small remnants of the meadows located in and around Kloof and Hillcrest are representative of what would be a vast, contiguous system of meadows spanning the plateau. The Minsi Nature Reserve, the Krantzklough Nature Reserve, the Giba Gorge Ecological District and the Springsaid Nature Reserve provide good examples of PFNNS. They are characterized by a diverse group of forbs with a share of sandstone endemics (meaning specific plant species occurring only in areas with sandstone geology), such as Acalypha glandulifolia, Brachystelma pulchellum, (very rare) Brachystelma natalense, and Gladiolus nardensis. THE CCC is listed as endangered and, more specifically, as an endangered provincial. Acalypha glandulifolia (photo by Richard Boone) is certainly not the most attractive name, but other geology of Grasslands (OGG) is the current eThekweni Municipality name for meadows that occur on geology such as Dwyka Tillit, granite, and dolerit. Unfortunately, the meadows of science have not progressed to the stage where we can clearly distinguish between the meadows occurring on these geological and, as such, they are all now combined into one description. Other names for these meadows, which occur above and below the Slope of Kluif (included in Mucina and Rutherford's 'Vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland'), is Ngongoni Weld and the CBN coastal belt of Grassland respectively. We, as a biodiversity planning team of the municipality eThekweni, prefer not to use the term Ngongoni Veld, as it is often associated with degraded meadows dominated by Ngongoni grasses (Aristida junciformis). Like the CSNS, other geological meadows include a diverse set of forb species. OGG above the escarpment (Ngongoni Veld) is listed as vulnerable nationally and as endangered provincially. SCB was described by Rob Scott-Shaw and David Stiles in 2012. Its distribution area is located along the coastal zone of Kwazulu-Natal, where there are red soils of Berea. Although there are no specific endemics described for this type, its floral composition has been shown to be significantly different from other species of meadows. The Treasure Beach Reserve in Bluff is the only remaining example in the EMA. Outside the EMA, Tugela Banks and Amatigulu Reserve also contain remnants of SCB. Although not formally listed, this meadow should be considered endangered. The Sandy Coastal Belt (SCB) Grassland Natural Meadow Habitat Regulation is crucial to ensure its conservation. When fire is excluded from the meadow patch, the pioneer of indigenous woody plants is given the opportunity to seed and grow. These woody plants increase density to such an extent that they overdo underground grasses, reduce fuel load and ultimately reduce the intensity and frequency of fires. If left unchecked, the original meadow site will be transformed into a forest or forest. This process is known as continuity. The lack of fire also leads to the creation of a dead plant material called dying, which can suffocate grass and forb species and promote tree encroachment plants. Herbal forbs are designed to withstand fire events through several strategies. These devices include storing nutrients in underground organs such as poop, bulbs and rhizomes, as well as resting periods during the dry winter months. Some forbs also rely on fire or smoke to seed germination. It is these specialized adaptations that show that the meadows persist for a considerable period of time. Time. Root Indigofera Bulb from Boophone disticha Meadows in and around the EMA is not all about plants. There are a number of animals from different groups that feed, roost or pass through meadows. One of the known animals is the orica antelope, which is found in and around The Cato Ridge/Hammersdale. Onibis are territorial antelopes that prefer short meadows for feeding and high meadows for recreation and shelter. Their relatively rare distribution and their imprisonment in the meadows makes them an easy target for organized illegal dog hunting parties. This, combined with the continued transformation of primary and secondary meadows, has led to the red list as vulnerable in southern Africa. The aptly named Cape Grass Bird and African grass owl, along with numerous pipites, quails, crakes, cisticolas, falcons, kites, buzzards, herons, and herons all feed and/or roost in the meadows. Some EMA birds of particular conservation importance include red-listed black-rumped Buttonquail, Black Stork, Southern Bald Ibis, and Corn Crane. Invertebrates probably make up the bulk of animal biodiversity within the meadow system. Bees, bees, butterflies, wasps and arachnids are among the most obvious groups of invertebrates that can be found in meadows. These insects are important for pollinating plants and providing food to higher-level animals (birds, mammals, etc.). Some meadows of forbs, such as terrestrial orchids, have adapted to the specialized pollination of some invertebrate species. African honey bees at Ornithogalum juncifolium Kedestes Chaka (Photo by Richard Boone) Wasp on Berkheya speciosa Wasps visiting Dierama argyreum Carpenter Bee visit berkheya speciosa As shown in this article, meadows are home to numerous plants and animals, but are threatened by habitat conversion, and degradation. We must ensure that the remaining pastures in the municipality of eThekweni are adequately managed and explore the restoration of degraded and secondary meadows to improve their functionality. Management is an important component of the overall effort to conserve the meadows. Managing the meadows is a fairly direct process that requires three major activities. It is an alien and pioneer of tree plant cleaning organized by burning medicinal collection and grazing monitoring 1. Alien and pioneer woody plants cleaning major alien plants in meadows are eucalyptus species (gum trees), Acacia mearnsii (Black Wattle), and Campuloclinium macrocephaly (Pom Pom Weed). They should be controlled with selective (i.e. no glyphosate-based wide range of herbicides such as Roundup) herbicide to avoid regrowth coppice. Indigenous species of pioneers to be removed from meadows include Maesa lanceolata (False Assagay), nicolai (Wild (Wild) Albias adinifolia (Flat Crown) and Dalbergia Obovat. Do not try to dig the remaining stumps, as it will damage the neighboring meadows. Recently, the cosmopolitan Pteridium aquilinum (Bracken Fern) has become a serious invader of meadows. Control of this species is difficult with cyclical reduction of the vend (with the ultimate goal of reducing plant resources) is the most effective method of control (note: Metsulfurone methyl herbicides are effective against Pteridium aquilinum, however, they will turn the adjacent meadows to forbs). 2. Organized burning plan for the meadow burning unit is essential to ensure its long-term viability. Ideally, the meadows should be burned every two to three years, and the burn time should be different between the months of May, June, July or August. Your ultimate goal should be to vary burning as much as possible, for example; if you burned in June in year one, then burn in August in year three and then in July in year six. This change will help in maximizing the biodiversity value of your meadows. It is important to make sure that you meet the requirements of the Veld Act and wildfires and that you are confident in your capabilities and you are properly equipped to carry out a block or fire burn. 3. Medicinal harvesting and grazing monitoring Recent scientific studies have shown that grazing, even at low intensity, kills a number of forb species. It is important that grazing, whether goats, cattle or horses, is not allowed in your meadows. Similarly, medicinal plants such as Hypoxis hemerocallidea, Pentanisia prunelloides, and Boophone disticha are at risk of drug treatment. The aerial photographs below provide a good illustration of how active management, through the removal of tree plants and controlled burning blocks, can reverse bush encroachment (taken in the Giba Gorge environmental precinct, Winston Park). Bush encroachment cleaning up the (before) Bush encroachment cleanup (after 2015) Grassland recovery is somewhat controversial in the environmental fraternity. There is a sector of ecologists and botanists who believe that the reconstruction of meadows is impossible, as the restoration of the original pre-rehabilitation composition of flower species is unattainable. This is due to horticultural problems spreading some of the rare forb species. While this conservative view may be correct, restoring the ecosystem, or at least improving the meadows by restoring floral biodiversity, will continue to add significantly to the overall meadows and related conservation efforts. These restoration efforts should not be reserved only for large open spaces. Anyone with a garden can contribute to the creation of stepping stone meadows. My own garden is a perfect example of this, planted with indigenous meadows forbs it's this become a refuge for numerous species of fauna in very urban settings (Berea Durban Central). The following photos were taken in my garden. Small carpenter bees at Chlorophytum Saundersiae Common White at Bulbine natalensis Hottentot Skipper at Barleria obtusa Wasp at Senecio speciosus White Acraea at Berkheya speciosa Grasslands are naturally diverse and do not necessarily fit the Victorian style of neatly groomed gardening approach. To avoid a messy garden, look to create contrasts between diverse flower beds, with different types of plants, and neatly manicured lawns. Herbal species such as Aristida junciformis, Eragrostis capensis and Melinis nerviglumis are readily available in local nurseries. Plant them rarely through the bed and fill in the gaps with meadow forbs such as Berkheya speciosa, Gerbera ambigua, Aloe Eklonis, Aloe Cooperi, Aloe Makulata, Senecio Spp., Chlorophytum Saunders, Stahis Aetiopika, Ghazania Krebsiana, Ledeburia Spp. (such as L. sebrin), Hypoxis hemerocallidea and Crinum macowanii. Turn on aloe feroeks to vary the height. In Durban and its surroundings we are fortunate to have nurseries such as Silverglen Municipal Nursery (located in Silverglen Reserve in Chatsworth area), Jenny Dean Wildflower Nursery in Summerwell, and Izinyoni Nursery next to Crocworld in Scottburg, which all share different meadows for your garden. Ultimately, if we all take active responsibility for our local meadows, either individually or as a community, we will greatly contribute to their preservation and perseverance. The protection of Kloof should be commended for their initiative in this regard, with projects such as the Msinsi Nature Reserve reaping significant benefits. Lyle Land is a senior ecologist in the eThekweni Municipality's Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department. He serves as a ground ecologist in the Department, covering aspects related to environmental sciences, natural resource management and strategic assessment of the impact on biodiversity. He is currently pursuing his doctoral thesis on the biodiversity of Durban's meadow systems. System.

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