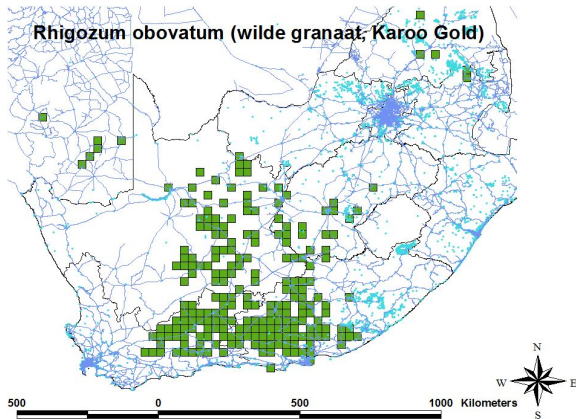


Rhigozum obovatum

Common name: Wildegranaat, Karoo Gold

Family: Bignoniaceae

Habitat: Widespread throughout the Central and Upper Karoo on mudstone ridges and outcrops.



Map based on PRECIS data from <http://sibis.sanbi.org/>.

Plant description: Drought-deciduous, long-lived woody shrub 1.0-2.0 m high. Flowers after every major warm season rainfall (2-4 times annually). Flowers at the age of 2-3 years in absence of competition from other plants.

Palatability: ★★ ★ Flowers, seed pods and young shoots are palatable to game and livestock

Seed description: The seed pods are red when unripe. Pods dry and split in two when ripe, releasing 15-20 papery flat seeds with transparent wings. Seeds have no dormancy and 95% viability when fresh. Viability last for only 15 months per year.

Viable seeds per kg: 62,200

When & how to plant: Sow in summer (October to February). Seed germinates in 5 days after rain or irrigation. The seedlings need to be kept moist until they have developed taproots 50-100 mm deep. It is recommended that plants be grown in containers and then planted out under irrigation. In old lands, seed can be sown furrows at a depth of 0.5 cm. In natural veld, sow into hap-ploeg or hand-dug hollows, and cover with thorn branches to protect from grazing animals. It is essential to retain water and avoid erosion – so rip on the contour, not down the slope. If

veld is dominated by unpalatable plants, first thin them out, but do not totally clear the vegetation because this will cause erosion.



Scale: 1cm



References

Van Breda, P. A. B., and Barnard, S. A., 1991. Veld plants of the winter rainfall region. Department of Agricultural Development. Pretoria.

PRECIS data on southern African plant distributions and taxonomy <http://sibis.sanbi.org/faces/SearchSpecies/>

Renu-Karoo unpublished data